

**The Ramakrishna Mission
Institute of Culture Library**

Presented by

Dr. Baridbaran Mukerji

RMICL—5

15938

Golf Park

OPENS. 2-8.30 P.M.

TEL. ~~414-4523~~

RENEWALS : By post, telephone or in person. Quote the number opposite and last date below.

--	--	--	--

P.T.O.

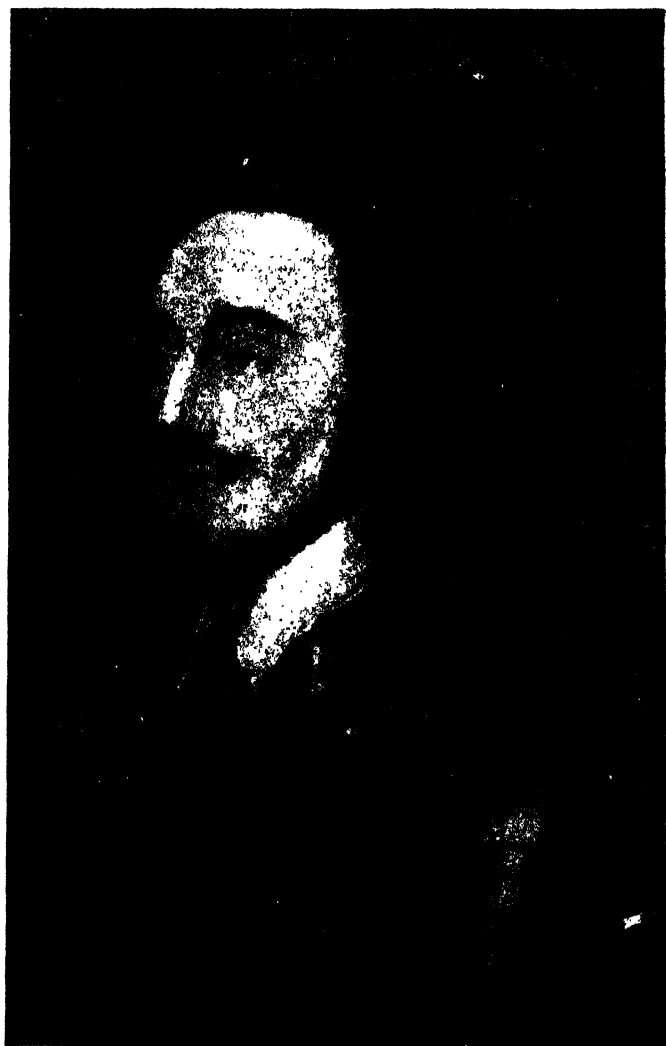
CHARLES THE FIRST

HEROES OF ALL TIME

FIRST VOLUMES

- Mohammed.** By EDITH HOLLAND.
Alexander the Great. By ADA RUSSELL, M.A.
(Vict.)
Augustus. By RENÉ FRANCIS, B.A.
Alfred the Great. By A. E. MCKILLIAM, M.A.
Thomas Becket. By SUSAN CUNNINGTON.
Jeanne d'Arc. By E. M. WILMOT-BUXTON,
F.R.Hist.S.
Sir Walter Raleigh. By BEATRICE MARSHALL.
William the Silent. By A. M. MIALl.
Marie Antoinette. By ALICE BIRKHEAD, B.A.
Boys who Became Famous. By F. J. SNELL.
Oliver Cromwell. By ESTELLE ROSS.
Peter the Great. By ALICE BIRKHEAD, B.A.
The Girlhood of Famous Women. By F. J.
SNELL.
Garibaldi and his Red-Shirts. By F. J. SNELL.
Robert Louis Stevenson. By AMY CRUSE.
Queen Victoria. By E. GORDON BROWNE, M.A.
Anselm. By E. M. WILMOT-BUXTON, F.R.Hist.S.
Sir Walter Scott. By AMY CRUSE.
William the Conqueror. By RENÉ FRANCIS, B.A.
Julius Caesar. By ADA RUSSELL, M.A. (Vict.)
Buddha. By EDITH HOLLAND.
Queen Elizabeth. By BEATRICE MARSHALL.
Warwick the King-maker. By RENÉ FRANCIS,
B.A.
Abraham Lincoln. By EDITH L. ELIAS, M.A.
William Caxton. By SUSAN CUNNINGTON.
Cardinal Wolsey. By RENÉ FRANCIS, B.A.
Charles the First. By A. E. MCKILLIAM, M.A.

Many other volumes in active preparation



Charles the First

Van Dyck

Photo W. A. Mansell & Co. •

Fr.

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

A. E. MCKILLIAM M.A.,

AUTHOR OF 'ALFRED THE GREAT'
ETC.

WITH NINE ILLUSTRATIONS



LONDON

GEORGE G. HARRAP & COMPANY
2 & 3 PORTSMOUTH STREET KINGSWAY W.C.

MCMXVII

RMIC LIBRARY	
Acc. No.	15938
Class No.	923.142 1186
Date	
By	
For	✓
On	✓
By	
On	N.R.

*Printed in Great Britain
by Turnbull & Spears, Edinburgh*

Munksgaard

Contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE BIRTH OF A PRINCE	9
II. THE GUNPOWDER PLOT	17
III. THE DEATH OF PRINCE HENRY	26
IV. ELIZABETH, QUEEN OF HEARTS	31
V. BUCKINGHAM	38
VI. THE JOURNEY TO SPAIN	46
VII. THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE CHARLES IN SPAIN	52
VIII. THE DEATH OF KING JAMES	62
IX. THE WEDDING OF KING CHARLES	69
X. THE ASSASSINATION OF THE DUKE OF BUCKING- HAM	78
XI. ARCHBISHOP LAUD AND THE PURITANS	86
XII. THE WAR WITH THE SCOTS	94
XIII. THOMAS WENTWORTH, EARL OF STRAFFORD	102
XIV. KING AND PARLIAMENT	110
XV. THE WORK OF THE KING'S ENEMIES	117
XVI. THE CIVIL WAR BEGINS	125
XVII. THE QUEEN'S ADVENTURES	131
XVIII. MARSTON MOOR AND LAUD'S EXECUTION	139
XIX. THE BATTLE OF NASEBY	146

Charles the First

CHAPTER	PAGE
XX. THE KING'S FLIGHT TO THE SCOTS . . .	155
XXI. THE KING'S IMPRISONMENT . . .	163
XXII. THE SECOND CIVIL WAR . . .	171
XXIII. THE KING'S TRIAL . . .	178
XXIV. THE EXECUTION OF KING CHARLES . .	185

Illustrations

	PAGE
CHARLES THE FIRST <i>Frontispiece</i>	
THE ARREST OF GUY FAWKES	24
CHARLES THE FIRST WALKING TO HIS CORONATION AT WESTMINSTER	74
CHARLES SIGNING THE WARRANT FOR STRAFFORD'S EXECUTION.	108
THE KING DEMANDING THE SURRENDER OF THE FIVE MEMBERS	118
PRINCE RUPERT AT EDGEHILL	128
THE DEPARTURE OF THE LONDON TRAIN BANDS TO RELIEVE GLOUCESTER	136
THE FLIGHT OF CHARLES AT NASEBY	150
CROMWELL CONTEMPLATING THE DEAD KING	188

David Baron Munkaji-
(Glasgow Row, Calcutta.)

CHAPTER I: *The Birth of a Prince*

THE royal palace of Dunfermline, which for five hundred years was the favourite residence of the kings of Scotland, rose from a rocky eminence about three miles north of the stormy waters of the Firth of Forth. It was surrounded by woods, the remains of mighty forests which once covered that part of Scotland, and were the hunting-grounds of the early Scottish kings. In summer no fairer spot could be found for a royal retreat, since the wild beauty of the woods and glens gave the country a peculiar charm ; but in the bleak winter, when snow lay deep on moor and hill, and wild blasts howled through the leafless woods, the place assumed a dreary and desolate aspect.

On the evening of November 19, in the year 1600, considerable stir and excitement prevailed within the palace. Since early morning there had been much coming and going of Court ladies, royal attendants, and officers of the Queen's household. At about noon a mounted knight, booted and spurred, had passed post-haste through the great gateway and taken the road to Edinburgh, bearing dispatches to his Majesty King James, who was then at the Scottish capital. Some hours later a second hurried messenger had departed, following the same road at a gallop. Now the chill dusk of the autumn evening had gathered round the palace, and a storm of wind and beating rain raged without. In the great hall, hung on all

Charles the First

sides with trophies of the chase, burned a huge wood fire, near which a woman sat knitting. At a little distance from her two children—a handsome boy of six and a blue-eyed girl of four—played with a great boar-hound. From time to time the woman paused in her work and appeared to listen attentively.

"Dear, dear!" she repeated for about the twentieth time, "it's high time you bairns were bedded!"

"But you did say we could sit up late to-night, nurse," said the boy.

"Well, and isn't it late?" retorted the woman. "Past nine o'clock! Did ye ever hear the like! If it weren't that his Majesty——"

She was interrupted by the sudden blast of a horn which echoed from the woods, followed by the loud baying of the kennel hounds. A moment later wheels were heard approaching rapidly. The children ran to the great entrance in time to see a coach drawn by four steaming horses dash, with a loud clatter, into the courtyard. Many serving-men and valets had hurried out and now stood in line respectfully as the strange, ungainly figure of a middle-aged man, with crooked legs, descended from the carriage. He wore shabby, ill-fitting clothes and an old beaver hat ornamented with a diamond buckle.

"Well, well," said he, speaking with a strong Scottish accent as he entered the hall, "here's your old dad back again, bairns," and he kissed the children affectionately. A black-robed Court physician advanced hurriedly through the crowd of attendants. "Your Majesty," said he, bowing low, "I have to

The Birth of a Prince

announce that Queen Anne, your consort, has given birth to a prince." A smile of amusement lighted up the King's plain face. "Aye," said he, "but Jock Murray met me on the road and I gave him fifteen Scots pounds for being the first to bring me the news. And here's Janet Kinloch, who, I wager, will expect double that," he added.

The physician retreated crestfallen, as a stout elderly woman carrying a white bundle entered the hall. The children pressed eagerly forward, for to their wondering gaze she displayed the little face, blue and puckered, of the puniest baby they had ever seen. The tiny hands were clenched, the eyes closed, and each short, gasping breath shook the small body from head to foot.

King James looked with concern on the infant prince.

"Surely the child is too weak to live," he said.

"I'm sair feared that yer Majesty speaks truly," said the old Scotswoman.

"Ah, well, God be praised I have here a sturdy heir to my throne," said the King, and he laid his hand on the head of the elder boy, Prince Henry.

The King gave orders that the sickly prince should be christened as soon as possible, according to the rites of the Episcopal Church of Scotland. He received the name of Charles, after his great-uncle, Charles Stuart, Earl of Lennox, the brother of Lord Darnley. Two French noblemen of the powerful Catholic house of Guise, who were then residing at the Scottish Court, stood as godfathers to the prince. Immediately

Charles the First

after the ceremony King James created his infant son Duke of Albany.

James VI, the father of the baby prince, was the son of the beautiful Mary Stuart, Queen of Scotland, whose story is one of the strangest and saddest in history. Mary spent her childhood in France, and at the age of sixteen was married to Francis, the eldest son of the French king. Her husband was a delicate boy, who died about two years after their marriage. Mary then returned to Scotland and married her cousin, Lord Darnley, a vain youth of nineteen, with whom she soon quarrelled. About two years after the marriage Darnley fell ill with smallpox. When somewhat recovered he was taken for a change of air to a lonely house called Kirk o' Field, outside the walls of Edinburgh. In the night of February 10, 1567, this house was blown up with gunpowder, and the dead body of Darnley was found next morning in an adjoining orchard.

Not long after this Mary made the fatal mistake of marrying the Earl of Bothwell. She had already offended many of her Scottish subjects by her devoted attachment to the Roman Catholic religion, in which she had been brought up. Her marriage with Bothwell served to turn the Scots completely against her, and she was driven from the throne. She fled to England, and took refuge in Carlisle Castle, whence she sent letters to her cousin Elizabeth, Queen of England, begging for her protection. But Elizabeth looked on her cousin as a dangerous rival, for, as she herself had never married and had no children, Mary was

The Birth of a Prince

the next heir to the English throne. Nor did Elizabeth wish Mary to succeed her, for if this happened the Roman Catholic religion might be restored in England.

So for nineteen weary years Mary remained a prisoner in different English castles. She was at length accused of being concerned in a plot to assassinate Elizabeth and to place herself on the English throne. For this she was condemned to death, and was executed at Fotheringay Castle, in Northamptonshire, on February 8, 1587. She died calmly and nobly.

Shortly after Mary had been driven from the Scottish throne she was compelled by the Scottish nobles to sign a paper in which she consented to give up the crown of Scotland to her little son James. The young King, a baby one year old, was solemnly crowned at Stirling. He is said to have lain on the throne sound asleep during the whole ceremony.

King James was brought up a Protestant, for it was expected that on the death of Elizabeth he would succeed to the throne of England, and the English people, remembering the days of Mary Tudor, had declared that no Roman Catholic sovereign should ever again reign over them.

James inherited none of the beauty of his mother Queen Mary or of Lord Darnley, his father, but he grew up a fine scholar. At the age of twenty-three he married Anne, the second daughter of Frederick II, King of Denmark. At the time of her marriage this princess was a beautiful maiden of

Charles the First

fifteen, with a white skin and yellow hair. She was well liked for her good-humour and high spirits.

Queen Anne had seven children, but only three of these lived to grow up. She was a devoted mother, especially to the little sickly Charles, who was her favourite. Her elder son, Prince Henry, and her beautiful little daughter Elizabeth were healthy, merry children. A curious tale is told of Charles's infancy. One night when he was sleeping in his cradle, which was placed in an apartment adjoining that of the King and Queen, the royal parents were alarmed by hearing his nurse give a loud scream, followed by the exclamation "Eh, my bairn!" The King jumped out of bed and rushed into the room where the woman lay crying.

"Hoot toot! What's the matter with you, woman?" said he.

"Oh!" sobbed the nurse, "an old man came into the room and threw a cloak dipped in blood over the child, and then he drew it off again, and ran out."

Another version of the story is that one night when Charles was sleeping in his cradle an angel descended from heaven and covered him with a blood-red mantle. It is probable that these stories were invented by the superstitious Highlanders of Scotland, who repeated them many years later, in the belief that the blood-stained cloak had been an evil omen.

Charles remained very delicate for some years after his birth. His legs were so weak that the physicians declared he would never be able to walk.

The Birth of a Prince

It was also feared that he had been born dumb, for at the age of three he was still unable to talk.

In the spring of 1603, when the Prince was two and a half years old, an important event occurred. At that time the Scottish King and Court were residing at the beautiful palace of Holyrood, in Edinburgh. Late one night, after the royal household had gone to bed, a loud knocking was heard at the gate of the palace.

"Who goes there?" demanded the warder.

"Sir Robert Carey, a messenger from the English Court with great tidings for the King of Scots," was the reply. The knight, dusty and weary—for in two days he had ridden four hundred miles—was admitted and conducted to the royal bed-chamber.

Carey knelt by the King's bedside and presented him with a blue ring. "God save your Majesty, King of England, Scotland, and Ireland," he said.

"Amen," said King James, for he knew by the token that Queen Elizabeth was dead, and that the whole British realm was at last united under his sceptre.

Some days later the King, who henceforth assumed the title of James I, King of Great Britain and Ireland, prepared to bid his Scottish subjects farewell, and to set out for England to take possession of his new kingdom. Queen Anne was to follow in a few weeks with the elder children, but Charles was too feeble to go. The physicians declared that the long journey over the rough roads would endanger his life, and Queen Anne consented, with great reluctance, to leave him behind. He was committed to the care of Lady

Charles the First

Fyvie, the wife of a Scottish nobleman, in whose charge he remained for a year, living chiefly at Dunfermline.

In those days a belief prevailed in Scotland, and in fact still lingers, that certain persons among the old Highlanders have what is called the gift of second-sight—that is, the power of foretelling future events in some mysterious way. While King James was preparing to leave Scotland to take possession of the English throne an old Highland laird came to bid him farewell. He gave the King many parting counsels and good wishes, and then turned to the young princes who were present. Overlooking Prince Henry he went to Charles and, bowing before the little boy, kissed his hand very reverently.

“Surely you mistake this infant for my heir,” said the King. “Here is my eldest son,” and he led Henry forward.

“No,” said the old Highlander, “I am not mistaken; I know to whom I am speaking. This child now in his nurse’s arms will be greater than his brother. He it is who will inherit his father’s titles.”

This prophecy was destined to be strangely fulfilled in later years.

CHAPTER II: *The Gunpowder Plot*

WHEN Charles was nearly four years old it was decided that he should join his royal parents at Windsor Castle. The Prince began his journey south on July 16, 1604, being accompanied by Lord Fyvie, the Chancellor of Scotland, whom the King shortly afterward created Earl of Dunfermline. A Court physician and many of the King's officers also attended the young Prince on the journey. They travelled slowly, by easy stages, halting at many places on the way, for the Prince was easily fatigued by the jolting of the carriage. Not until October 1 did they reach Windsor.

Queen Anne had anxiously waited the coming of her youngest son, and her joy was great when he reached her safe and sound. His arrival was celebrated at Windsor with much rejoicing. The King solemnly created him Duke of York and a Knight of the Bath ; a golden coronet was placed on his head, and a sword girded by his side ; he was carried in the arms of that illustrious hero of the Armada, Lord Howard of Effingham, Lord High Admiral of England. A public banquet and a pageant followed the ceremony.

The King and Queen were greatly disappointed, however, to find that Charles was still unable to walk, and that he could not speak distinctly. Many great English ladies on hearing of his coming had applied for the post of nurse to him. But on seeing the sickly child they all withdrew their requests, fearing lest

Charles the First

they should be blamed if he died while under their care. For some time no one would consent to undertake the charge of him. At length Sir Robert Carey, who had brought the news of Queen Elizabeth's death to King James, and who was anxious to obtain preferment, petitioned that his wife should be appointed to attend the Prince. Lady Carey was accordingly engaged, and she proved a kind and wise nurse. Under her care Charles gradually gained strength, though until his seventh year he was unable to walk, but was forced to crawl on his hands and knees.

The King, who had read many books on medicine and surgery, and considered himself an authority on these matters, wished to try the experiment of putting the Prince's legs in iron boots. But Lady Carey, knowing that this would cause much suffering to her little charge, dissuaded the King from trying such a remedy. As Charles was still unable to speak plainly James then proposed that the string under his tongue should be cut. But to this also Lady Carey was so strongly opposed that the King abandoned the idea.

Time proved that Lady Carey had acted wisely, for Charles gradually learned to walk and also to speak plainly, though the impediment in his speech never entirely disappeared. A learned Scotsman named Thomas Murray was engaged as tutor to Prince Charles, who made more progress in his studies than had been expected. His interest in his books was to some extent due to his bodily weakness, which prevented him from sharing the games of the other children.

The Gunpowder Plot

His attendants declared that he was sour-tempered and obstinate, but this may have been partly caused by his feeble health. He was called ' Baby Charles ' by his father, and the name stuck to him even after he had reached manhood.

About a year after the arrival of Prince Charles in England, the discovery of the famous Gunpowder Plot filled the whole country with consternation and terror.

King James had promised to allow the English Roman Catholics to worship in their own way, but he did not keep his word. Severe laws were imposed on them, and those who refused to attend the services of the Church of England were fined and imprisoned. In February 1604 the King issued a proclamation banishing all Catholic priests from the kingdom. This aroused much indignation among the Catholics, some of whom were ready to dare anything for their religion.

A Catholic gentleman named Robert Catesby conspired with a few others to take terrible vengeance on the King and his councillors. They resolved that at the next opening of Parliament they would blow up the King, Lords, and Commons with gunpowder. As it was probable that the King's eldest son, Prince Henry, would be present at the opening session, the conspirators hoped that he would share his father's fate. The two younger children, Princess Elizabeth and Prince Charles, were to be seized and carried off to some place of safety, where they would be brought up in the Catholic religion. Either Elizabeth

Charles the First

or Charles was to be proclaimed the new sovereign, the Protestant Church abolished, and England made again a Catholic country.

The conspirators sent for a daring English soldier named Guy Fawkes, who was then living in Flanders, and to him they entrusted the carrying out of the plot. The arrangements were made very secretly. Thomas Percy, one of the conspirators, hired a house next to the Parliament House. Guy Fawkes adopted the name of John Johnson, and in the character of Percy's servant went to reside in the hired house.

The conspirators then began to make a hole in the wall between the two buildings, with the intention of placing gunpowder under the House before the opening of Parliament. But the wall was nine feet thick, and they made slow progress, having little skill in such work. Besides other difficulties, water flowed in and hindered their labour.

One day, as they were working, they were alarmed to hear a rumbling sound on the other side of the wall. Terrified lest their proceedings should have been discovered, they sent Guy Fawkes to find out the cause of the noise. After some delay he returned with the news that the noise was made by a Mrs Bright, who was removing all her coals from an adjoining cellar. Fortune seemed to favour the conspirators, for the cellar of Mrs Bright was now to let. As it was directly under the Parliament House, they hastened to secure it.

Thirty-six barrels of gunpowder were placed in the cellar and covered with a thousand faggots, and with

The Gunpowder Plot

iron bars, which would increase the force of the explosion. The opening of Parliament was twice postponed, but was at last fixed for November 5, 1605.

The conspirators now required money to buy horses and arms for the insurrection which was to take place after the deed was done. This compelled them to tell their secret to several wealthy Catholics, who supplied them with the large sums they needed.

At this time the Princess Elizabeth was being brought up with the children of Lord Harrington at Combe Abbey, in Warwickshire. It was agreed that on the day Parliament was to meet a great hunting match should be held at Dunchurch, about eight miles from Combe Abbey. This would give an excuse for a large number of Catholic gentlemen to assemble. As soon as the news arrived that the explosion had succeeded, the men who had come to the hunt were to ride to Combe Abbey and carry off the Princess Elizabeth. Meanwhile, Thomas Percy, who had access to the palace at Whitehall where Charles was living with his parents, was to seize the Prince and to ride with him post-haste to the house of a Catholic nobleman in Worcestershire.

One great difficulty presented itself, namely, that many of the peers who would perish in the explosion were true Catholics. As they had remained loyal to the King, it was difficult to warn them of their danger without a risk of revealing the whole plot. Catesby seems to have been content to allow the innocent to perish with those whom he considered

Charles the First

guilty, but some of the other conspirators determined to warn their friends.

On the evening of Saturday, October 26, Lord Monteagle, a Catholic nobleman, was at supper in his house at Hoxton, near London, when one of his footmen brought a letter. It had been given to him, he said, by a tall unknown man, whose features he was unable to distinguish in the dark. Lord Monteagle opened the letter, which was unsigned and without date or seal, and read as follows :

“ MY LORD,

“ Out of the love I bear to some of your friends, I have a care for your preservation. Therefore I would assure you as you value your life to devise some excuse to shift of your attendance at this Parliament, for God and man hath concurred to punish the wickedness of this time. And think not slightly of this advertisement, but retire yourself into the country where you may expect the event in safety ; for though there be no appearance of any stir yet, I say they shall receive a terrible blow this Parliament and shall not see who hurts them. This counsel is not to be condemned because it may do you good and can do you no harm, for the danger is past as soon as you have burnt this letter ; and I hope God will give you grace to make good use of it, to whose holy protection I commend you.”

Lord Monteagle knew not what to make of this letter, but as it seemed to concern others as well as

The Gunpowder Plot

himself, he set out for Whitehall to show it to certain of his Majesty's trusted councillors.

Lord Salisbury, the Secretary of State, guessed on reading the letter that gunpowder was to be employed to destroy the King and his Parliament, and advised that a search should be made in the cellars under the House. It was agreed, however, to delay the search as long as possible, lest the conspirators should take fright and escape before the plot was fully ripe.

When the letter was shown to the King he also guessed that gunpowder was meant. James I had always a dread of gunpowder, owing, probably, to the way in which his father, Lord Darnley, had met his death.

On the afternoon of November 4 the Earl of Suffolk, the Lord Chamberlain, accompanied by Lord Montague, proceeded to the House of Parliament and inspected the adjoining buildings. Suffolk strongly suspected that the whole affair might be a joke, and feared that if no gunpowder were found everybody would laugh at him for taking the story seriously. He therefore gave out that he had come to look for some stuff belonging to the King which had been left in the cellars.

On reaching the cellar in which the gunpowder was stored, the door was opened to them by a harmless-looking individual, who was no other than Guy Fawkes himself. Seeing the huge pile of faggots, Suffolk asked to whom they belonged, and was told that they belonged to Mr Thomas Percy.

On hearing the name of Percy, who was one of

Charles the First

his friends, Monteagle no longer doubted the truth of the story. He and Suffolk said nothing to Guy Fawkes of their suspicions, but immediately returned to Whitehall and told the King the result of their search.

No time was to be lost, as Parliament was to meet on the following day. At midnight the King dispatched an officer with a body of armed men, who, under the pretence of searching for missing goods, entered the cellar. Their search under the faggots soon brought to light the barrels with their dreadful contents. Guy Fawkes was arrested and taken to prison. Before morning the other conspirators, who had been warned of their danger, were fleeing for their lives.

The King's first act on hearing of the discovery was to give thanks to God for his deliverance. On the morning of Tuesday, November 5, the news spread through London, and thanksgiving services were held in the churches. In the evening all the bells were set ringing, and bonfires blazed in every quarter.

Meantime Catesby had fled to Worcestershire, still hoping to raise a revolt among the Catholic gentry, but the majority of these remained loyal to King James. A house in which Catesby and some of the other conspirators had taken refuge was surrounded, and in the fight with the besieging party Catesby, Percy, and three others were killed. The other conspirators were arrested and conveyed to London. Poor Guy Fawkes, who was less to blame than those who had hired him for their wicked purpose, made



The Arrest of Guy Fawkes
Eileen M. Robinson and Irene Ward

The Gunpowder Plot

no attempt to excuse himself, but he refused to give the names of the other conspirators. Had he done so at once he would probably have saved his own life. He was conveyed to the Tower, and King James gave orders that if he refused to reveal his accomplices he should be tortured until he did so.¹ He was placed on a wooden frame known as the rack, and his limbs were stretched until the pain was beyond endurance. Even then he did not at once betray his friends. It was not until the torture had been applied many times, and he was driven frantic with pain, that a full confession was wrung from him. This confession was written down by those employed to examine him, and Guy Fawkes affixed his signature in a trembling hand. A few days later Guy Fawkes and eight others who had been concerned in the famous conspiracy were hanged at Westminster.

The result of the conspiracy was to make the laws against Catholics much more severe.

Since that time it has been the custom to search the cellars underneath the House of Commons on the night before Parliament holds the first meeting of its session, and every year, when the 5th of November comes round, English boys and girls celebrate the memory of that ancient plot by letting off fireworks.

¹ Torture was used in England as late as 1640 as a means of extorting evidence from accused persons or from witnesses.

CHAPTER III: *The Death of Prince Henry*

THE chief hero of Charles's boyhood was his elder brother Prince Henry, whom he loved devotedly. Though Henry was much given to teasing his brother, he had a kind heart and would often take pains to amuse the delicate little boy. It is related that on one occasion Henry, in the presence of the courtiers, caught up an archbishop's cap and placed it on the head of Charles. "If you continue to be a good boy," he said, "and attend to your lessons, I shall one day make you Archbishop of Canterbury."

On another occasion Henry, in unfeeling jest, remarked that he must certainly make Charles a bishop, in order that he might wear a gown to hide his crooked legs. But Charles took these jests in good part, and the warmest affection continued to exist between the brothers. Some quaint little letters written by Charles to his brother have been preserved. Here are three of them :

"SWEET SWEET BROTHER,

"I thank you for your letter ; I will keep it better than all my graith [belongings], and I will send my pistols by Master Newton.¹ I will give anything I have to you, both my horses and my books and my pieces, and my cross-bows, and anything that you would have. Good brother love me and I shall ever love and serve you.

"Your loving brother to be commanded,

"YORK."

¹ Adam Newton was Prince Henry's tutor.

The Death of Prince Henry

" MOST LOVING BROTHER,

" I long to see you and hope that you will return shortly therefore I have presumed to write these few lines that I may rest in your favour and ever be thought your most loving brother and obedient servant,

" CHARLES."

" GOOD BROTHER,

" I hope you are in good health and merry as I am, God be thanked. In your absence I visit sometimes your stable and ride on your great horses that on your return I may wait on you in that noble exercise. So committing you to God, I rest your loving and dutiful brother,

" YORK."

Here is a letter addressed by Charles to his father :

" SWEET SWEET FATHER,

" I learn to decline substantives and adjectives. Give me your blessing. I thank you for my best man.

" Your loving son,

" YORK."

When Henry was sixteen he was created Prince of Wales by the King, and the Palace of St James in London was set apart for his residence. The Prince was now a comely youth, with a strong, well-made body, broad shoulders, and a kingly carriage. He had auburn hair, grave dark eyes, and a winning smile. He excelled in all kinds of manly sport, and his high courage and good-humour won for him many friends. His Court at the Palace of St James came to be more frequented than that of his father. King

Charles the First

James, on hearing of this, was ill-pleased, for he feared that Henry was playing the part of king before his time. "Will my son bury me alive?" he said angrily.

Henry delighted in rare inventions and in arts of all kinds, including painting, engraving, and music, especially the trumpet and drum. He caused many curious pictures and statues to be brought from foreign countries, and beautiful gardens, designed by him, were laid out around his palace. He was a devoted friend of the brave explorer Sir Walter Raleigh, who had been charged with taking part in a plot to dethrone King James. Though there was no truth in the charges brought against him, he was declared guilty of treason and imprisoned in the Tower for twelve years. Prince Henry begged the King to pardon and release Raleigh, but the request was refused.

During the summer of 1612, when the Prince was eighteen years of age, he began to suffer from severe headaches and frequent attacks of faintness. But he made light of these ailments, and continued to engage in sport as eagerly as ever. The King and Queen, seeing him merry and active, believed that nothing could be amiss. One day, in the beginning of October, Henry played tennis in cold weather while wearing insufficient clothing. This brought on a chill, and on the morrow he was attacked by a fever. For a fortnight he was unable to rise from his bed. One evening Elizabeth and Charles, to their great delight, were permitted to visit him. The children had been deeply distressed by the illness of their beloved brother and were now full of joy at his recovery.

The Death of Prince Henry

Next day, however, Henry had a relapse and soon became much worse. No fewer than six famous physicians were summoned by the King to attend the Prince, and many different remedies were tried, but without effect. There were strange rumours in the palace, some declaring that the Prince had been poisoned by an enemy. Sir Walter Raleigh, on hearing of Henry's illness, sent him a cordial from the Tower, and declared that it would certainly cure him unless his malady was due to poison. The Prince took the cordial, but did not recover. The Queen placed so much faith in Raleigh that to the end of her life she believed that her son had been poisoned. It is more probable, however, that the malady from which he suffered was typhoid fever.

Henry bore his illness with great patience. He requested that he might see his sister Elizabeth, but this was refused as it was feared her presence might excite him and increase the fever. More than once Elizabeth disguised herself and stole away in the evening to St James's, but found it impossible to gain admittance to her brother through the ranks of attendants.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of Rochester attended at Henry's bedside and prayed with him. He gradually sank, and died at eight o'clock in the evening of Friday, November 6, 1612. A few days later the sorrow-stricken King and Queen, with their two remaining children, attended Prince Henry's funeral in Westminster Abbey. Both Elizabeth and Charles sobbed aloud throughout the sad

Charles the First

ceremony, overwhelmed with grief by the death of their beloved brother. Their passionate sorrow bore witness to the place which he had held in their hearts. 15938

After the funeral the attendants of the late Prince crowded around Charles to beg for his favour. Many who had previously treated him with indifference, or even with rudeness, now showed him the greatest respect. It was long before he understood the reason of this. In his sorrow he cared less than nothing for the attentions showered on him, and it only served to increase his grief when at last he realized that the death of his brother had made him heir to his father's kingdom.

CHAPTER IV: *Elizabeth,* *Queen of Hearts*

SHORTLY before the death of Prince Henry the Princess Elizabeth had been betrothed to a German prince. Her marriage was postponed for three months owing to the sad event. Elizabeth was now a comely maiden of sixteen, so famous for her beauty that she was known as the Queen of Hearts. The Prince chosen for her husband was Frederick V, Count Palatine of the Rhine, Duke of Bavaria and Silesia, a handsome youth of melancholy countenance and weak good-nature. On his arrival in England Elizabeth fell deeply in love with him, and the match was favoured by the King, though opposed by Queen Anne. As the Queen had no influence with her husband, her opposition had little effect.

The marriage was celebrated on February 14, 1613, with great magnificence. All the nobility of England, resplendent in gold, silver, and jewels, assembled to grace the ceremony. The wedding took place in the chapel of Whitehall Palace, which was "adorned in royal sort."

The Palatine Prince, preceded by a flourish of trumpets, was the first to arrive. He was attired in cloth of silver embroidered with gold and sparkling with gems, and his plumed hat was looped with diamonds. He was followed by many German nobles, and by sixteen unmarried peers of England, this number being equal to the years of the bridegroom's age.

Charles the First

The Princess Elizabeth then appeared, led between her brother and the Earl of Northampton. She wore a robe of silver cloth richly embroidered. Her long beautiful hair fell loose over her shoulders, and on her head was a crown of gold ornamented with pearls and diamonds. Twelve fair damsels of noble birth, all clothed in white, were her train-bearers. Next came a great procession of heralds, lords of the council, peers, peeresses, bishops, and men-at-arms. The Earl of Arundel, bearing the sword of State, walked before the King, who was attired in black velvet, with a diamond of priceless value in his hat. Queen Anne, who had not previously appeared in public since the death of Prince Henry, was followed by a train of married peeresses and a guard of archers. The jewels worn by the King, the Queen, and Prince Charles on this occasion were said to be worth £900,000.

The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by four bishops; the King gave away the bride. It was observed that as the words were pronounced which united her for ever to her lover, Elizabeth's beautiful face lighted up with joy. In the evening a State ball was given in the palace, and there was a display of fireworks in honour of the event. The festivities continued for some days.

Elizabeth and Frederick remained in England for about six weeks after their marriage, and it was not until the month of April that they set out for Germany, with a great retinue. Prince Charles accompanied them as far as Canterbury, where they were delayed

Elizabeth Queen of Hearts

for five days, the wind not being favourable for their voyage.

During these days the brother and sister enjoyed each other's companionship free from the restraints of the Court. They made many plans for meeting again. Prince Frederick invited Charles to come to them in Germany, and Elizabeth hoped to revisit England frequently. Often in after-life did Charles and Elizabeth look back with tender regret to those days spent together at Canterbury. Charles now seemed to lavish on his only sister much of the affection which he had previously given to Prince Henry.

At length a messenger arrived from the King ordering the immediate return of the Prince to London. Charles was much disappointed at being unable to go forward with his sister and accompany her on board the vessel, but the royal command was not to be disobeyed. So with many tears and loving embraces they parted.

The Prince felt lonely and heavy-hearted as he rode back to London, for he had thus lost within a few months both his dearest playmates. Little did he think that he would never again see his sister Elizabeth.

The Princess received a warm welcome on her arrival in Germany, and during the first years of her married life she enjoyed unclouded happiness. At that time Germany was divided into a number of States, each under its own ruler. Some of these rulers were Protestants, while others were of the Catholic faith. In 1618 a terrible civil war broke out between the Catholic and Protestant States. This war, which

Charles the First

involved nearly every European country, is known in history as the Thirty Years' War.

The Palatinate ruled by Frederick was a Protestant State, and at first the Protestant side triumphed in the war. Frederick was chosen King of Bohemia, a kingdom which now forms part of Austria. On November 4, 1619, he was crowned with great state in the cathedral of Prague. The coronation of Elizabeth as Queen of Bohemia took place three days later.

After a few months, however, Frederick was driven from Bohemia by the Catholic party, and was stripped not only of that kingdom, but of all his other dominions, including the Palatinate. He and his young Queen became homeless fugitives. They fled through Germany, and, after enduring many privations, found a refuge with an uncle of Frederick at the Hague, in Holland.

When this sad news reached England Prince Charles was so much distressed that he shut himself up in his room for two days, refusing to speak to anyone. A letter had arrived from Elizabeth begging the King to send an army to the help of her husband. As Frederick had accepted the crown of Bohemia, however, without consulting his father-in-law, James was offended and declined to send any help.

The King's conduct roused much indignation in England, where Elizabeth was a great favourite. Parliament offered to raise money in order that an army might be sent to Germany to restore his dominions to Frederick by force of arms. But James, who was in need of money for his own use, refused to

Elizabeth Queen of Hearts

permit this, and suggested another way out of the difficulty. As Spain was at this time the greatest Catholic power in Europe, James proposed to make a friendly treaty with that country, and thus induce the Catholic party to restore the Palatinate to Frederick. This scheme failed, as we shall hear later.

Elizabeth wished to take refuge in England, for she knew that there she would be able to persuade many English nobles to support her husband's cause. King James no sooner heard that she was preparing to set out for the English Court than he sent a message forbidding her to come. He knew well that her winning smiles would soon bring many to her side, and that he would then no longer be able to prevent England from joining in the war. So the Princess remained in Holland, deprived of all the splendour to which she had been accustomed from childhood, but bearing her misfortunes with much courage and patience.

In the meantime Queen Anne had been taken seriously ill with dropsy. Some time before her illness began she had ceased to attend the services of the Church of England, and had become a convert to the Roman Catholic Church. This had given rise to a quarrel between her and the King. During her illness two Catholic priests said Mass daily in her presence.

In February 1619 the Queen, who was living at Hampton Court, became much worse, and by the beginning of March it was evident that her end was near. The King had gone to Newmarket and was not within reach, but Prince Charles was immediately

Charles the First

summoned. Before he could arrive the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London had been admitted to see her. She spoke of her faith in Christ alone, and this was taken to mean that she had abandoned the beliefs of the Roman Church and had returned to the faith of her childhood. Whether this was so or not will never be known.

When Prince Charles arrived she spoke to him gaily, declaring that she would soon be well, and ordered him to quit the room. Nor would she permit any of the clergy to visit her again that day, for she was persuaded that there was little amiss with her.

"Will your Majesty not make your will?" asked one of her attendants. "No, no," said the Queen, impatiently, "to-morrow will do well enough for that."

At about one in the morning she realized that she was dying, and sent for Charles that she might give him her blessing. Being then too weak to sign her will, she declared that she left everything to her son. "I hope that you will remember my servants," she said to him. The Prince bent over her tenderly, and assured her that he would indeed remember them all. The Bishop of London knelt in prayer by her bedside. "Madam," he said at last, when her speech had failed, "make a sign that your Majesty is one with God and longs to be with Him." She raised one trembling hand, and when it was wearied she raised the other till it too sank down. A few minutes later she passed away.

King James, on hearing of his wife's death, wrote

Elizabeth Queen of Hearts

some verses in her honour, although he did not feel her loss very deeply. Anne had loved gaiety and amusement of all kinds, but she had a kind heart, and was charitable to the poor. At the Court she was soon as completely forgotten as though she had never lived, but Prince Charles long mourned her loss. To him she had been an indulgent mother, ever ready to grant his requests.

At the age of sixteen Charles had been created Prince of Wales, and certain revenues were set apart for his use, so that henceforth he held his own Court, as Prince Henry had done. With the improvement in health and strength had come a taste for manly exercises and sport, and he became famous for his skill in shooting, riding, and tilting at tournaments. From being a weak, sickly and almost helpless child, he became an active, handsome young man, full of life and spirit, and ready for any romantic adventure. At the age of twenty his manner was grave, reserved and dignified, very different from the awkward familiarity of his father. His face had an air of melancholy, but when he smiled it lighted up and the sadness disappeared.

The Prince was devoted to music and poetry, and was an excellent judge of works of art, his interest in art having been first aroused by the collection of beautiful pictures and statues bequeathed to him by Prince Henry.

CHAPTER V: *Buckingham*

KING JAMES I, with all his learning, was a poor judge of character, and often chose unworthy favourites on whom he lavished wealth and honours. One of these was a young man named George Villiers, who in a short time rose, through the King's favour, to exercise the chief power in England.

Villiers was the youngest son of a Leicestershire knight. His mother had been left a widow early, and as George was very handsome she determined to educate him for the Court. He was sent to France, where he acquired a graceful and pleasant manner, and also learned to dance and fence well, but gained little education of real value.

He made his first appearance at the English Court when twenty-two years of age, and his handsome face and figure soon attracted the notice of King James. Within a few years many important offices were bestowed on him ; he was made Master of the House, Warden of the Cinque Ports, Master of the King's Bench, Constable of Windsor, Steward of the Manor of Hampton Court, and Lord High Admiral of England. He was also created a Baron, a Viscount, an Earl, Marquis of Buckingham, and, toward the end of James's reign, Duke of Buckingham.

The English people resented these tokens of the royal favour, for Buckingham had done nothing to deserve his honours, and there were many worthy and deserving men who had received no reward from the King. Buckingham was accustomed to appear in public in

Buckingham

great state, wearing jewels more magnificent than those of the King himself. His clothes sparkled with gems, and he wore diamond buckles, ear-rings, and cockades. On one occasion, when preparing to visit the French Court, he had twenty-five suits of clothes made, every one trimmed with the richest embroidery and lace. One suit was of white velvet studded with diamonds valued at £80,000. In his hat he had a great feather set with diamonds, and his sword and spurs were bejewelled in the same way. His coach was drawn by six horses, and he had hundreds of servants to wait on him, while the entertainments he gave were the most sumptuous in the kingdom.

Buckingham was the first person in England to be carried in a sedan chair. His passage through the streets in one of these vehicles attracted much attention, and the people railed at him, openly crying out that his pride had brought men to the servile condition of horses, since they were forced to carry him.

The King called Buckingham 'Steenie,' because he was supposed to resemble a picture of St Stephen the martyr. In his letters to the King Buckingham signed himself "your slave and dog, Steenie." He treated the King with great familiarity, and called him his "old Dad." Such undignified behaviour drew on James and his favourite the contempt of the nobles, who hated and despised Buckingham.

Buckingham, who was eight years older than Charles, soon gained much influence over the Prince. They were continually to be seen in each other's

Charles the First

company, though this caused great offence to the other nobles.

Since the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot there had been a very strong feeling in England against the Catholics. Great was the indignation therefore when it became known that King James wished to marry his son to a Catholic Princess, the sister of Philip IV, King of Spain.

Donna Maria, known as the Infanta, a title given in Spain to all princesses of the royal blood except the eldest, was at this time sixteen years of age. She was of a wondrously fair complexion, in contrast to the olive-tinted beauties who thronged the Spanish Court. The natural sweetness and gentleness of her disposition caused her to be beloved by all, and she was never known to speak harshly even when wronged. She was devotedly attached to the Catholic Church, and spent a large part of her allowance for the relief of the poor.

As King James knew that the Princess would receive a large dowry on her marriage, he would have been disposed to favour the match for this reason alone, because he was constantly in need of money. But another motive weighed with him still more powerfully. He intended that in the marriage treaty there should be an agreement providing for the Palatinate to be restored to Frederick. As the King of Spain had much influence with the Emperor of Austria, the leader of the Catholic party, James believed that there would be little difficulty in effecting this.

Buckingham

Many embassies passed between the Courts of England and Spain, and formal proposals were made by James for the marriage of the Prince to the Infanta. The young King of Spain appeared to agree to the proposals, but before the marriage treaty could be signed there were endless discussions about securing for the Infanta the right to have a chapel and priests to celebrate Mass in England. As a condition of the marriage James was also required to promise full liberty of worship to all his Catholic subjects.

James knew well that he could not do this without rousing violent opposition among the English people, who would sooner see him dethroned than consent, even in part, to the restoration of the Catholic religion in England. So it seemed that the Spanish match on which he had set his heart would have to be given up.

At last Buckingham proposed to Charles that they should set out for Spain to see if they could not settle the affair, and bring the Infanta back with them to England. He told the Prince that the delay was chiefly due to the ambassadors, who spent their time in raising endless difficulties.

"Take the matter into your own hands like a man," he said. "By your presence at the Spanish Court you will be able to accomplish in a day what ambassadors would take months to effect. The Infanta will be flattered by such a proof of your devotion to her and will fall so deeply in love with you that she will be eager to hasten the marriage."

Buckingham believed that a romantic adventure

Charles the First

of this nature would appeal to the Prince, and he was not mistaken. Charles was delighted at the prospect of a journey to Spain for the purpose of fetching home his bride. It was necessary, however, to obtain King James's consent to the expedition. Buckingham did not foresee much difficulty in obtaining this, for he was accustomed to manage James almost like a child. He also knew if he were allowed to accompany Charles to Spain he would be able to increase his influence with the Prince.

They sought the King, and Charles, advised by Buckingham, begged that his Majesty would decide concerning a proposal to be made to him without consulting anyone. This the King unwarily promised. On learning their plans, however, he was at first thunderstruck and positively refused to give his consent. Eager as he was for the match, he was overwhelmed by the dangers which would attend such a journey. He feared that 'Baby Charles' might be taken prisoner, either in France or Spain, and kept for a long time in captivity. In those days it was not uncommon for a royal traveller to be seized and kept in captivity by a rival Power until a ransom was paid.

Buckingham assured the King that no harm would come to the Prince while in his company, and declared that by such foolish fears he would prevent the marriage from taking place. At last, between the coaxing of Charles and the bullying of the favourite, James was induced to give a reluctant consent.

On the following day, however, when Charles and

Buckingham

Buckingham again sought the King to make arrangements for their departure, he attempted to withdraw his consent. Buckingham made no attempt to reason with him, but declared with fury that if the King withdrew his promise, so solemnly pledged, nobody would in future believe anything he said. The favourite also accused the King of having communicated their project to some of the courtiers, who had attempted to dissuade him from agreeing to it. The poor old King, terrified and distressed by Buckingham's violence, wept like a child, crying that he would lose his Baby Charles. His opposition at length gave way, and he was persuaded to discuss the plans for the journey. They named two gentlemen whom they wished to go with them, Sir Francis Collington and Endymion Porter. Collington was an officer of the King's household, and had resided for some years in Spain. Porter was the son of a Gloucestershire knight. He had been brought up in Spain as a page in the household of Olivares, a Spanish minister, and spoke Spanish fluently. He had already been employed as an ambassador in the negotiations for the marriage.

As Collington was then in the palace he was immediately summoned. James began by assuring him that he believed him to be an honest man, and that they would therefore confide to him a secret which he must reveal to no one.

"Here are Baby Charles and Steenie," he said, "who have a mind to go to Spain to fetch home the Infanta. They will have but two men in their com-

Charles the First

pany and have chosen you for one. What think you of the journey ? ”

Collington was struck with amazement when this question was put to him, and trembled so violently that he could scarcely reply. When at length he was able to speak, he said that he felt certain such an expedition would prevent the marriage from taking place. He was convinced that if the Spaniards once got the Prince into their power they would largely increase their demands, especially with regard to the rights of the Catholics in England.

When the King heard Collington's words he threw himself upon his bed. “ I told you so before ! ” he shrieked ; “ I am undone ! I shall lose Baby Charles ! ”

Buckingham, in a violent rage, turned upon Collington. “ The King sent for you,” he said, “ merely to ask your advice about the best means of travelling through Spain, a subject on which you are competent to give an opinion. But since you have presumed to meddle with State affairs you shall repent of your impertinence as long as you live.”

“ Nay, by Heaven, Steenie,” said the King, “ you are much to blame to use him so. He answered me very honestly the question I asked him, and yet you know he said no more than I already told you before he was called in.”

Collington's opposition was of no avail, and King James was finally forced to agree to all Buckingham's plans.

Collington and Porter were dispatched to Dover

Buckingham

to hire a ship to carry them across the Channel. The expedition was kept secret, and it was agreed that *Buckingham* and the Prince should travel in disguise. They quitted the Court on February 17, 1623. James had gone to his country seat at Theobalds, in Hertfordshire, and thither Charles first proceeded in order to bid him farewell. The Prince then rode to *Buckingham's* residence at Newhall, in Essex. There he and the favourite disguised themselves with false beards, and assuming the names of John and Thomas Smith set out on their adventurous journey.

CHAPTER VI: *The Journey to Spain*

JOHN and Thomas Smith set out on their journey on the morning of February 18, 1623. They were accompanied by Sir Richard Graham, a Scot of humble birth, who had been appointed Master of the Horse to Buckingham. They rode first to Tilbury, where they crossed the Thames in a ferry-boat. Being inexperienced in travelling they had forgotten to provide themselves with small change. On their arrival at Gravesend, having no silver coin in their pockets, they were forced to present the ferryman with a gold piece. This extraordinary liberality roused the man's suspicions. He concluded that they were on their way to France to fight a duel and, out of gratitude for their bounty, determined to prevent this. He communicated with the magistrate at Gravesend, and a post-boy was sent after them to Rochester with orders to stop them ; but with their swift horses they outstripped the messenger, who arrived after their departure. At Rochester they were on the point of being recognized, for just outside the town they saw approaching them the carriage of the French Ambassador, escorted by the Lieutenant of Dover Castle, to whom they were both well known. To avoid discovery they put their horses to a hedge, and galloped across the fields.

The Lieutenant, seeing their hasty retreat, supposed them to be suspicious persons, and sent a messenger after them to Canterbury ordering their arrest. They

The Journey to Spain

were accordingly stopped at Canterbury and brought before the mayor, who refused to believe the story that they were gentlemen travelling for pleasure. He gave orders for them to be detained until they could prove their statements.

Buckingham, in despair, requested that he might speak to the mayor in private. This was granted, and they were no sooner alone than the favourite pulled off his false beard.

"As Lord High Admiral of England, I am commissioned by His Majesty to make a secret inspection of the fleet in company with the Prince," he said.

At this the mayor, who now recognized Buckingham, was overwhelmed with confusion, and gave orders for the immediate release of the two young men. They reached Dover about six in the evening and were joined by Sir Francis Collington and Endymion Porter, who conducted them on board the vessel in which they were to cross the Channel. The night was very stormy, so they were unable to sail until the following morning, which was fair and sunny. After a favourable crossing they reached Boulogne at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Soon after their departure King James, who was very anxious for their safety, sent after them the following letter :

"SWEET BOYS,

"The news of your going has already so blown abroad that I am forward for your safety to post the bearer after you, who will give you his best advice

Charles the First

and attendance on your journey. God bless you both, my sweet babes, and send you a safe and happy return.
"JAMES R."

This letter was brought to the 'sweet babes,' who were aged twenty-three and thirty-one respectively, by the Earl of Carlisle. King James wrote to them frequently during their absence, and his letters, as well as their replies giving an account of their adventures, still exist.

After a ride of three days through Northern France they approached Paris. While they were yet some distance from the capital they were met by two German gentlemen who had lately visited England and had seen the Prince and Buckingham at Newmarket. The Germans immediately recognized the distinguished travellers, and contrived to waylay Sir Richard Graham in order to inquire where the Prince was going. But Graham, with much bluster, declared that they were mistaken and that the Prince was still in England.

They reached Paris on the Friday evening and took lodgings at an inn in the Rue St Jacques. The following day was spent by them in visiting the sights of the French capital. In order that their disguise might be more complete Charles and Buckingham bought French wigs, which concealed their foreheads. In the afternoon they obtained a sight of the King of France, who was walking after dinner in a gallery. Toward evening they happened to overhear two gentlemen remark that they were going to see the

The Journey to Spain

rehearsal of a masque in the palace. The Prince and Buckingham determined to follow the gentlemen in the hope of being admitted with them to the entertainment. Good fortune attended them, for the Queen's Lord Chamberlain, seeing two distinguished-looking foreigners in the crowd at the door, beckoned to them to enter, though many French people were refused admittance.

The Queen of France and nineteen fair ladies took part in the play. The Prince and Buckingham were much struck with the beauty of the Queen, who was the elder sister of Donna Maria, the Infanta of Spain. They scarcely noticed a little French Princess, named Henrietta Maria, then aged thirteen, who also took part in the play. Had Charles or Buckingham been able to foretell the future they would have regarded this Princess with the greatest interest.

Though the presence of the Prince in Paris was not revealed to the French Court, some of the King's ministers had received a secret intimation of his arrival. The famous French statesman, Cardinal Richelieu, sent orders to certain magistrates in the towns through which the Prince was to pass, ordering that he should not be hindered in his journey through France.

In order that their departure from Paris might not attract notice the Prince and his party set out at three o'clock on the Monday morning. The beauty of the French Queen had increased Charles's desire to see her sister, and he was now eager to press on to his destination with all possible speed. So

Charles the First

distinguished was the appearance of the travellers, even in their disguise, that they attracted much attention at all places through which they passed. In spite of their desire to remain unknown they could not resist assuming an air and bearing which caused people to wonder who they were, for this added to the spirit of their romantic journey.

At Bordeaux they bought five riding coats all of one colour and fashion. During their stay in that city they were invited by some noblemen to take part in a public festival, but they declined, saying that they were only poor gentlemen travelling to improve their minds, and were not fit to appear in gay assemblies. The last French town at which they stopped was Bayonne, where they rested for two days before entering Spain. The governor of Bayonne had no sooner seen them than he became convinced that they were persons of great distinction, but he courteously allowed them to proceed on their journey.

Prince Charles was in the highest spirits when at last they crossed the Spanish frontier, and he found himself in the country of his dreams. He sang gaily as he rode, and entertained his companions with merry jests. At length they came in sight of Madrid, having travelled from Paris, a distance of 750 miles, in thirteen days. Leaving their companions outside the gates, with orders to follow them a day later, Charles and his companion entered the Spanish capital.

At this time the Earl of Bristol was British Ambassador at Madrid, and to his house the travellers first

The Journey to Spain

proceeded. The Earl had had charge of the negotiations for the marriage of Charles with the Infanta, and he believed that all the arrangements were now nearly completed. But Buckingham, who disliked the Earl, declared that the delays had been chiefly due to his bungling.

At about seven o'clock in the evening of March 7, the two travellers knocked at the door of Bristol's house. Buckingham, who gave his name as Mr Thomas Smith, entered first with his portmanteau under his arm, while the Prince waited outside in the shadow of an adjoining building.

Buckingham was recognized almost immediately on entering, and the Earl was overwhelmed with astonishment when he learned that Charles was waiting outside in the dark. The Prince was quickly ushered in, but the Earl did not hesitate to express his strong disapproval of the expedition. He declared that the marriage treaty would certainly have been signed in a few days had they left matters in his hands, but he was convinced that their arrival would spoil everything and prevent the marriage from taking place. They, however, remained in Bristol's house for the night.

CHAPTER VII: *The Adventures of Prince Charles in Spain*

KING PHILIP IV of Spain, who was at this time only eighteen years of age, was greatly amazed on hearing that Prince Charles was in Madrid. He gave orders that nothing should be left undone to render the Prince's reception at the Spanish Court magnificent.

The Prince was naturally extremely anxious to see the Infanta, but the customs of Spain did not permit that he should meet her privately before the betrothal. His first sight of her was obtained in a public park in Madrid, known as the Prado. On the Sunday following the arrival of the Prince and Buckingham it was arranged that the Spanish royal family should drive to meet the Prince's carriage in the Prado. King Philip, with his two younger brothers and the Queen, were of the party, and carriages containing many grandees of Spain followed.

The Infanta wore a blue ribbon round her arms to distinguish her from her attendants. Thrice did the royal carriages drive past the coach in which the Prince was seated, and as Charles gazed on the Infanta she blushed deeply. The Prince, enraptured with her charms, fell violently in love with her. He declared that all the maidens he had ever seen were nothing to her, and that he was ready to fight every Spaniard who should dispute his right to wed her.

Buckingham wrote to King James, informing him that Charles had completely lost his heart to the

Prince Charles in Spain

Infanta, and that the marriage would probably take place immediately. The news delighted the King, who hastened to dispatch to Spain two English chaplains and several noblemen to attend the Prince. He also sent many gorgeous dresses to be worn by his 'dear boys.'

It was agreed that Charles should make a public entry into Madrid before taking up his residence in the palace with King Philip. On the morning of the day fixed for this ceremony the Prince was conducted outside the city to the monastery of St Jerome, the place whence the kings of Spain were accustomed, on their coronation days, to make the entry into their capital. After Charles had been entertained in the monastery at a splendid banquet, the chief nobles waiting on him, King Philip arrived to escort him to the city. They rode together under a canopy of state, which was held over their heads, and they were followed by the chief nobility of Spain, arrayed in dazzling uniforms.

The houses along the route were adorned with rich tapestries, and the streets resounded with shouts of welcome from the crowds of people who had come out to see the English Prince. On their arrival at the palace Charles was conducted to the principal apartments, which were set aside for his occupation, and Philip presented him with a gold key which opened the monarch's private rooms, to which the Prince might have access at all hours.

As soon as Charles was installed in the palace the Queen sent him many handsome presents. They

Charles the First

consisted of a great basin of massive gold, which was borne by two men, and contained, folded inside it, a cunningly embroidered night-gown; two trunks bound with gold bands and having locks and keys of pure gold. They were studded with golden nails, and the coverings and linings were of amber leather; each was filled with fine linen and perfumes. Another gift was a rich writing-desk, every drawer of which was full of rare treasures and curiosities.

Costly as these gifts were, those which Prince Charles gave in return far excelled them in magnificence. The following words are taken from one of the letters written by Buckingham to King James at this time: "I, your Dog, say you have many jewels, neither fit for your own, your son's nor your daughter's wearing, but very fit to bestow on those who must of necessity have presents, and this way will be least chargeable to your majesty in my poor opinion."

Though King James was usually very unwilling to part with jewels or money he now showed great generosity, in the hope that his gifts would be repaid in a lasting union with Spain and in the restoration of the Palatinate to Frederick. Crown jewels said to be worth £150,000 were taken from the Tower and sent to Spain at this time. Many of these were afterward returned by the Spaniards.

The Prince gave the Queen the biggest crown pearl in the world, set between two diamonds. To the Infanta he gave a rope of pearls, an anchor of great diamonds, and many other jewels. He was also very generous to the King and to the officers of the royal

Prince Charles in Spain

household. Among the gifts sent by James was a small jewelled mirror, set in a case to be worn at the girdle. The King wrote that when Charles presented this to the Infanta he was to tell her that it was a magic glass in which each time she looked she would see a picture of the most beautiful princess in England, France, or Spain. The extravagance of Charles and Buckingham during their sojourn in Spain was a severe tax on the English Treasury, which could ill-spare the money drawn from it.

In one of his letters King James wrote: "You must be as saving as you can in your spending for your officers are now at their wit's end how to find the £5000 you demand, and your tilting stuff which they know not how to provide, will come to £3000 more; and God knows how my coffers are already drained."

Prince Charles soon became very popular with the people of Madrid; majestic, graceful, grave and dignified, he was well suited to the Spanish taste. What pleased the Spaniards most of all was a rumour which spread rapidly that he had come, not only to wed the Infanta, but also to declare himself a Catholic. Spanish poets composed verses in his praise; the following is an English version of a song which at this time was constantly sung in the streets of Madrid:

Charles Stuart I am,
Whom love has guided far.
To the heaven of Spain I come
To see Maria, my star.

It was said that the English Prince had brought

Charles the First

good fortune to Spain. For seven months the country had suffered greatly from want of rain ; but on the arrival of the Prince the weather immediately changed, genial showers fell and abundant harvests followed. The most fruitful season ever known in Spain is said to have followed the coming of the Prince.

While Charles was lodged in the palace a solitary white dove roosted above his window in a place where no dove had ever been seen before. It was fed by no human hand, yet never left its chosen place to seek food. The devout Catholics believed that the dove was a heavenly messenger sent to prove the holiness of the Prince.

King Philip arranged that Charles and the Infanta should have many opportunities of meeting in public. Entertainments were got up at which the Prince could see his lady love among the spectators. Bull fights were held in honour of the illustrious guest ; tilts, tournaments, and other sports in which the Prince was known to excel were not wanting, and he performed prodigies of valour in the sight of the Infanta, carrying off more prizes than any of the other competitors.

The Prince did not willingly submit to all the formalities of the Spanish Court, and was becoming daily more impatient for an opportunity of making love to the Infanta when others were not present. He had by this time been several weeks in Madrid without being permitted to speak to the Princess except in public. At length he learned that it was the custom of the Princess to take a morning

Prince Charles in Spain

walk in the garden of a house near Madrid, known as the Casa di Campo which belonged to her brother. Early one morning he went to this place and succeeded in gaining admittance to the garden. It happened, however, that the Infanta was in the orchard, which was surrounded by a high wall. Charles, determined not to be disappointed in seeing her, climbed the wall and leapt down on the other side. The Princess, on seeing him, gave a loud scream, upon which an old marquis, in whose charge she was placed, hurried to the spot. He fell on his knees and implored the Prince to depart, declaring that he himself would most probably lose his head if he allowed him to remain.

Though Charles was much annoyed he good-naturedly complied with the old nobleman's entreaties. In order that he might not be forced to return as he had come, a gate was unlocked for his departure.

The Prince was unfortunate in his love-making, for it soon became evident to him that the Infanta was not at all eager for the marriage. She had been told by her confessor that it would be very wrong to marry a Protestant, and though she had at first been willing to obey her brother's wishes, she soon wept bitterly whenever the marriage was mentioned. Every day she became thinner and paler, and the state of her health caused much anxiety at Court. At last, one day she sent a message to her brother to say that she would rather enter a nunnery than wed the Prince.

As King Philip supposed that there would be little difficulty in persuading Prince Charles to become a

Charles the First

Catholic, it was hoped that all would yet be well. The Pope wrote a letter to the Prince expressing joy at the news that he was about to be received into the Catholic Church, and nothing was left undone to induce Charles to take this step. He was conducted to many Catholic churches to hear sermons by famous preachers and to Catholic shrines where miracles were said to be wrought by the saints. He was assured that he had only to become a Catholic in order to win the heart of the Infanta, and this was doubtless true. Count Olivares, the proud Spanish minister, told Charles that if he would profess himself a son of the Roman Church Spain would grant all his desires and would restore the Palatinate to his brother-in-law. "It only lies with yourself," said the minister, "to become by this means the wealthiest and most powerful monarch in Europe. Should your change of religion lead to a rebellion in England, Spanish armies will be sent to subdue the rebels."

Now Charles understood that in order to marry a Catholic Princess he must make many concessions to the Catholics, and he had already made promises to them which he knew would be displeasing to his English subjects. But he was at heart deeply attached to his own form of religion, and was determined that he himself would at all costs remain loyal to the Church of England. He also rightly felt that the Spaniards were now treating him unfairly in refusing to conclude the marriage treaty except on the condition of his becoming a Catholic. The reply of the English Prince to the Spanish minister has come down

Prince Charles in Spain

to us : " My lord," he said gravely, " you have broken your word to me, but I will not break my faith with God."

Meantime Buckingham's proud and haughty manners had displeased the Spanish nobles, who soon discovered him to be vain and worthless, and took a great dislike to him. They looked on him as a meddler and an upstart, and refused to allow him to take part in their debates concerning the marriage. This treatment maddened the spoiled favourite of the English King. He vowed that he would take vengeance on the proud Spaniards, and soon became as much opposed to Charles's marriage with the Infanta as he had at first been eager to bring it about.

The summer was now well advanced and Charles, weary of the endless difficulties still raised against his marriage, agreed with Buckingham that it was time they returned to England. He did not, however, tell the Spanish King that he had abandoned all thought of marriage with the Infanta, so they parted good friends.

A fleet of eight ships of war and two pinnaces was sent by King James to bring home the Prince. Buckingham, after a violent quarrel with Count Olivares, set out for the ships on the pretext of making arrangements for Charles's embarkation and without taking any formal leave of the Spanish Court. But Prince Charles took his departure in great state, the King and all the Court accompanying him for some distance on the way. At the Escorial, a palace outside Madrid, the Prince was entertained to a farewell feast, after

Charles the First

which he and Philip took leave of each other, embracing affectionately.

The Prince embarked at the Spanish port of St André on September 9th, having spent more than six months in Spain. Before sailing he entertained some of the Spanish nobility to a banquet on board his ship. Late in the evening he honoured them by escorting them back to the shore in a boat. While returning to his ship he was overtaken by a violent storm and was in the greatest danger of being drowned. At length, however, he was rescued by a boat from one of the attendant ships.

Charles and Buckingham, who had been created a Duke during his absence, arrived safely at Portsmouth on October 5, 1623. When it was known that the Prince had returned from Spain a Protestant and without the Infanta the English people broke out into rejoicings such as had not been known since the defeat of the Spanish Armada. The news that the hated Spanish match had been broken off seemed too good to be true. Debtors were released from prison, thieves on their way to execution were set free, bells rang out from every steeple, and bonfires blazed from all the hills. As the Prince and Buckingham drove through London they were greeted with roars of welcome from the assembled crowds.

They proceeded immediately to Royston, in Hertfordshire, where King James was then staying on a hunting expedition. The King met them on the stairs and showed his joy at their return by falling on their necks and weeping. Not all at once did the old King realize

Prince Charles in Spain

that it was not 'Baby Charles' who had returned to him. The expedition to Spain had been a failure, but it had taught the Prince many wise, though sad, lessons. He had set out like a gay and careless boy ; he returned a man.

CHAPTER VIII: *The Death of King James*

THE Duke of Buckingham was now determined to make war on Spain out of revenge for the treatment he had received at the Spanish Court. He persuaded King James to summon Parliament and to request money for the war. As the Lords and Commons hated the Spaniards they readily agreed to Buckingham's proposals, and the Duke became for a short time more popular than he had ever been before.

King James wished, however, to begin the war by an attempt to recover the Palatinate for his son-in-law. He knew that if that State could be restored to its Protestant ruler by English arms, a blow would be struck against Spain and the other Catholic powers of Europe. Buckingham was appointed Chief Minister of War, and the management of the expedition was left entirely in his hands.

The military preparations made slow progress owing to lack of funds. The expenses of the Prince's visit to Spain had been enormous, and other charges arising out of the extravagance of the Court had led to heavy taxation. Though Parliament agreed to new taxes being levied to meet the expenses of the war, the sum raised barely sufficed to pay the King's debts.

Count Mansfield, a German adventurer, was chosen as leader of the expedition. But James had so long delayed sending help to Frederick that the English people were no longer eager for the war, and it was

The Death of King James

found difficult to enlist soldiers. Press-gangs of the King's officers marched through the country, compelling poor men against their will to leave their occupations and to take service in the army. By the beginning of December 1624, 12,000 raw recruits, without military training, were collected at Dover.

Buckingham had hoped that the King of France would allow the English troops to pass through his territories, and would thus engage himself to some extent in the undertaking. But as they were about to sail a message arrived from the French minister, Cardinal Richelieu, refusing to permit the troops to pass through France. This caused a delay of some weeks, while discussions were held about the new route to be followed. Meanwhile the men, who had received no pay and were without provisions, roamed over the country stealing cattle and robbing houses.

After the route had been decided on, it was discovered that too few ships had been provided to convey the men across the Channel, and three more had to be procured before they could set sail.

At last, on January 31, 1625, the troops embarked at Dover, with little heart for the expedition in which they had been forced to engage. They landed on the coast of Holland with provisions for five days, and with no money or credit. Their orders were to march on the Palatinate, and to rescue it from the trained armies, which had been mustered for its defence, from Spain, Austria, and Germany. Had Buckingham arranged for the English force to be supported by troops from Denmark or any other Power friendly to

Charles the First

the Protestant side, the expedition might have had some chance of success ; but this he had failed to do.

Having reached the Rhine they embarked thereon in open boats, but they had not proceeded far when a hard frost came on, and the boats stuck in the ice. They were forced to land, and continued their march through Holland. But for the aid of the Dutch Government they would all have died of hunger. Sickness broke out among them, and forty or fifty died daily. Instead of attempting to push on to Germany, the wretched survivors had to spend their time in seeking food and in burying their dead. They lingered in Holland until nine-tenths of their number had died or deserted. Very few of them lived to return to England. The English expedition to restore the Palatinate was thus a complete failure.

Shortly after the expedition under Mansfield left England, Lord Kensington, a trusted minister of King James, was sent to France to treat concerning the marriage of Prince Charles with a French Princess. Henrietta Maria, the little Princess whom Charles had seen during his stay in Paris, and who was now destined to be his Queen, was the youngest daughter of King Henry IV of France. When she was only six months old her father had been assassinated while driving through the streets of Paris, and her brother, Louis XIII, became King of France. She was now fifteen years of age, and was the loveliest of a lovely family ; her complexion was beautiful, her face oval, her eyes large and dark, now touchingly soft, now brilliant and sparkling. Her black hair

The Death of King James

fell in ringlets on her shoulders, and her slim figure was lithe and graceful. The only fault in her appearance was that she was small for her age, but the Ambassador assured the King and Prince, when writing to them, that her elder sister had been no taller at the same age and was now grown into a tall and handsome Princess. Henrietta had learned to dance exquisitely, and from her mother, who was an Italian Princess, she had inherited a gift for music. Her voice was so sweet and powerful that it was said if she had not been born to be a queen she might have been the *prima donna* of Europe.

Lord Kensington had an interview with the Queen-mother of France, and soon discovered that she was eager to wed her daughter to Charles. Indeed the match would have been proposed by the French themselves had they not supposed the Prince to be already betrothed to the Infanta of Spain. Kensington wrote to Charles in praise of the Princess, with whom he lost no opportunity of conversing on the merits of the English Prince. He was anxious that Charles and Henrietta Maria should fall in love with each other before they met.

The Ambassador wore a miniature portrait of Charles in a locket attached to a ribbon round his neck. The Queen and other ladies of the Court had examined this portrait with interest, but Henrietta Maria was shy of showing regard for a Prince who had not yet formally demanded her hand. However, she sent a confidential lady of her Court, secretly to the Earl to ask for the loan of the portrait. As soon as the

Charles the First

lady returned, the Princess retired with her to a private room, where she opened the locket and, blushing deeply, gazed on the miniature. She kept it for more than an hour before returning it to Lord Kensington. The portrait pleased her greatly, for it revealed the Prince to be even handsomer than she had been led to expect.

Prince Charles was delighted to hear of the Princess's eagerness to see his portrait. A beautiful miniature of her was sent to him in return, and he was in raptures over the charms of his future Queen.

Though the Princess was a Catholic the French King did not oppose her marriage with a Protestant Prince, and the marriage treaty was signed. It was agreed that the Princess, with her attendants and the ladies of her Court, should enjoy full liberty in England to worship according to the rites of the Roman Church ; that a private chapel for her own use should be prepared in the palace ; and that priests should accompany her from France. The dowry of the Princess was fixed at 800,000 crowns, which was eight times less than that promised for the Infanta.

King James had been for some time in failing health and was deeply distressed by the failure of the expedition to the Palatinate. He suffered much from gout, and was compelled to give up hunting, which had been his chief recreation. In the spring of 1625 he retired to his favourite country house at Theobalds, in Hertfordshire, where he was seized with an ague. To console him in his illness his attendants reminded him of an old proverb which says, " An ague in spring

The Death of King James

is life for a king." But James shook his head sorrowfully, and said that the saying only applied to a young king. The ague was followed by a fever, and the King's condition became very serious. He had always felt a great dislike for physicians, and even during his worst attacks refused to take any of the remedies they prescribed for him.

The Duke of Buckingham undertook to cure him by a remedy of his own invention, but after trying it the King became worse. The Duke was afterward suspected of having attempted to poison him, but the accusation was probably invented by enemies.

As King James had ever been of a timorous disposition, the physicians feared to tell him that he was dying. At last Williams, the Lord Keeper, undertook to do so. To the surprise of all the King received the tidings with great calmness. He who had never been brave in life was brave at the last.

"I am well satisfied to depart hence, since God wills it," he said. He showed little need of consolation, and prepared himself for his end with much fortitude.

Prince Charles was sent for, and spent three hours with his father in private. The dying King asked his son to make him two promises: first, that he would ever remain loyal to the Church of England; and second, that he would take the family of his sister Elizabeth under his protection. These things the Prince solemnly promised.

At daybreak on Sunday, March 27, King James raised himself on his pillow, as if he had something of

Charles the First

importance to say, but his speech was inaudible. When the prayer for the dying had been offered by the Archbishop he twice repeated the Latin words, "*Veni, Domine Jesu.*" Shortly afterward he ceased to breathe, without any appearance of pain.

The morning sunlight flooding the room fell on the face of the dead King and on the bowed head of Charles, who knelt sobbing by the bed. "Your Majesty," whispered a courtier, "the Privy Council has assembled and waits your orders." Charles roused himself with a start, and gazed wonderingly at the speaker, who knelt to kiss his hand. A moment later he realized with sorrow that he himself was now the King.

CHAPTER IX: *The Wedding of King Charles*

KING CHARLES I, unlike his father, was above all things kingly, and his dignified bearing commanded the respect of his subjects. At the time of his accession to the throne he was twenty-five years of age, and in the full vigour of his manhood. He was of middle height; his complexion was pale, his forehead high, his grey eyes, quick and penetrating, were overshadowed by dark eyebrows. He wore his beard and moustache peaked in the French fashion, and his chestnut-coloured hair fell in large curls on his shoulders. The expression on his face betokened a strange mingling of majesty and sadness.

During the early years of his reign King Charles made an effort to acquire a collection of pictures and statues, which he hoped to hand down to his successors. He was a true lover of art, and invited many artists to his Court, but he had little money at his disposal. His enemies afterward declared that among his other offences he had squandered many millions of pounds on "old rotten pictures and broken-nosed marbles." This was untrue, for he was never master of even quarter of a million.

The wedding of Charles with Henrietta Maria of France was celebrated at Paris on May 1, 1625. As it was not considered advisable for the King to proceed to France, his cousin, Claude de Lorraine, Duke of Chevreux, was sent as his deputy to represent him

Charles the First

at the wedding. The ceremony was performed with much pomp by a Cardinal of the Roman Church.

On the evening of the same day the Duke of Buckingham arrived in Paris, with a great train of the English nobility, to escort the young Queen of Great Britain to her island home. The Queen-mother accompanied her daughter on the journey north, but at Amiens, a town more than half-way to Boulogne, she was taken seriously ill.

King Charles had gone to Dover to meet his bride, and was much disappointed to receive a letter from her begging permission to delay her coming for some days on account of her mother's illness. To this Charles replied with much kindness and courtesy, requesting her not to come until she could feel quite at ease in her mind with regard to her mother. During the interval of waiting the King retired to Canterbury.

In a few weeks the Queen-mother was sufficiently recovered to permit her daughter to depart. But at Boulogne another delay occurred owing to the whims of the Duke of Buckingham, who pretended that he had received important dispatches which necessitated his return to Amiens. His real motive was to obtain another sight of the young Queen of France, for whom he had conceived a passionate admiration. Henrietta was much offended by the additional delay, and felt that her escort was showing her scanty respect.

At last, on the morning of June 13, the young Queen sailed with her party from Boulogne, and reached Dover at seven in the evening. The firing of cannon announced the arrival of her vessel, and a messenger

The Wedding of King Charles

was sent to Canterbury to inform Charles that his bride had at last reached England. He decided, with kind thoughtfulness, to remain at Canterbury until the following day, in order that Henrietta might be somewhat recovered from the fatigue of her voyage before their meeting took place.

The King came to Dover Castle to meet his bride at ten o'clock on the following morning. His arrival was unexpected, and she was still at breakfast. Charles, on learning this, sent a message that he would wait until the meal was concluded. Nevertheless, fearing to displease His Majesty, she rose immediately and ran downstairs to meet him. She attempted to kneel and to kiss his hand, but he folded her in his arms, kissing her affectionately. The set speech with which she had prepared to greet him was : " Sire, I am come into your Majesty's country to be at your command." But her heart failed her, and instead of finishing the sentence she burst into tears.

It was little wonder that the girl-bride of fifteen, who had left her home for the first time to wed a husband whom she had never seen, should feel a tremor of dismay on the threshold of an unknown land. The sight of her distress called forth all Charles's kindness of heart. He led her apart, kissed away her tears, and assured her that she had nothing to fear, for he would ever love and protect her. His kind words soon reassured the weeping girl, and she was presently talking to him with all her natural gaiety.

The King was surprised to find her taller than he had expected, for she reached his shoulder ; he glanced

Charles the First

at her feet to see if her height had been increased by artificial means. Quickly guessing his thought, she said, laughing: "Sire, I stand upon my own feet—I have no help from art—so high am I, and no lower."

The bridal party left Dover later in the day. A halt was made at Barham Downs, where a pavilion had been erected and a banquet prepared. Many ladies from the English Court had assembled there, and were presented to their young Queen—Henrietta thus holding her first Court in the open air.

At Canterbury a magnificent feast awaited them. Charles served his beautiful bride himself, carving for her with his own hands. Her confessor stood by her chair, and reminded her that it was the Vigil of St John the Baptist's Day, and therefore a fast. But she greatly delighted her Protestant subjects by eating the wing of a pheasant in spite of her confessor's reproofs.

Charles had decided to enter his capital by the old State highway of the River Thames, and thus to avoid passing through the narrow streets of East London, where the plague was then raging. Accordingly they proceeded to Gravesend and embarked in a State barge. At five o'clock on a hot, thundery June afternoon they drew near the capital. Many gaily decorated barges and pleasure boats followed the royal vessel, and fifty ships of His Majesty's navy discharged their cannon as the gay pageant passed up the river. The Tower guns were also fired to welcome the Queen. A heavy shower of rain was falling at the time, but the banks of the river were lined by thousands of

The Wedding of King Charles

spectators; many stood on rafts, boats, and hulls of ships. Some of these small vessels capsized, plunging the sight-seers in the Thames, but they were all rescued in boats, with little damage except a thorough ducking. The King and Queen, who both wore green dresses, stood at the barge window, and Henrietta waved her hand to her delighted subjects. The royal vessel, after passing under London Bridge, made for Somerset House, the Queen's dower palace, where she was to reside. The bells of all the churches rang until midnight, and bonfires blazed in honour of the Queen's arrival; but the revels and sports usual on such occasions were not held on account of the plague.

Though the grace and beauty of the young Queen completely won her husband's heart, the first year of her wedded life was not free from trouble. The King had promised that Henrietta's French attendants should remain with her at the English Court, but he had soon reason to regret having made this arrangement, for they lost no opportunity of influencing her against her Protestant subjects.

Henrietta had been told by her mother that her marriage was to bring certain favours to the English Catholics, but Charles, in his desire to please his first Parliament, had not carried out this part of the marriage treaty. The Catholics who had accompanied her accordingly felt themselves injured, and did not fail to complain to Henrietta against her husband. Charles urged her in vain to add English ladies to her household.

Charles the First

The coronation of the King and Queen had been fixed for January 2, 1626. Charles had hoped that the great event would be an occasion for the renewal of his subjects' loyalty, and of peace and good-will in his kingdom. In this he was doomed to be disappointed.

The chief cause which marred his happiness was the refusal of Henrietta to appear at the ceremony, on the ground that her religion did not permit her to be crowned by a Protestant bishop. Charles was highly displeased, for he suspected that the French companions of his girl-queen had urged her to take this step. He begged that she would at least be present in the Abbey as a spectator of the ceremony, but she refused to make even this concession. No remonstrance of Charles could move her from her purpose, and a letter arrived from her brother, Louis XIII, praising her resolution. But her obstinacy rendered her very unpopular with the English people, who never forgave her for having thus shown contempt for their crown. The French Ambassador, who felt compelled to follow the example of his master's sister, also declined to be present at the ceremony.

The coronation took place at a gloomy time, for the young King had been obliged to practise the most humiliating economy in order to pay for the war with Spain, in which Buckingham had persuaded him to engage. To save expense, the usual coronation procession from the Tower through the city to Whitehall was omitted.

At nine in the morning the King went from his



Charles I walking to his Coronation at Westminster
W. Hotherell, R.I.

The Wedding of King Charles

palace at Whitehall by water to Westminster Hall. There he robed himself, and entered the Abbey in company with the peers. After the usual coronation service Charles was solemnly crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

There were not lacking on the occasion certain incidents which were said to be ominous of evil to him who was crowned. A wing of the golden dove on the sceptre, which is the emblem of peace, was accidentally broken off and fell in fragments on the floor. The chaplain chose as his text, "I will give you a crown of life." Many declared that the text was not suitable for the occasion, and that, since the King had had a funeral sermon when he was crowned, he would not require one when he was buried—words which were afterward looked upon as a prophecy.

Henrietta stood at a bay window over the portal in the gate-house of Whitehall, whence she had a good view of the procession coming and going. It was observed that her French ladies were all dancing and frisking in the room beside her, as if they took little interest in the great event.

A few weeks after the coronation the Queen's French priests persuaded her to walk barefooted from St James's Palace to Tyburn to pray for the souls of certain Catholic traitors who had been executed there.

When reports of this proceeding reached the ears of the King he was highly indignant. He was now persuaded that there would be no happiness for him

Charles the First

or his Queen until her French attendants were sent back to France.

So one day he asked Henrietta to come to his private apartments in the palace of Whitehall, having previously given orders that in her absence all her French attendants were to be removed, with their belongings, to Somerset House—there to await his commands. The wailing and lamenting raised by the French ladies on their dismissal reached the ears of the Queen, who was furious with Charles for what she considered to be cruel treatment of her friends. She attempted to go to them, but Charles prevented her from doing so by holding her wrists. In the struggle she succeeded in breaking a window and waved her hand to the departing French ladies.

After their departure, however, she became calmer, and consented to set out with Charles for one of his castles in the country. Before many weeks were over she was consoled for the loss of her attendants and had forgotten her anger against the King; after all, at this time she was only a lovely and vivacious child, who had been spoiled by her mother and by the flattery of the French Court.

Charles's admiration for the Infanta of Spain had been but a passing fancy; his love for Henrietta Maria grew with the years, and was deep and steadfast to the end of his life. Nor did she fail to return his love, as she well proved in his hour of need.

In August all the French attendants and priests were embarked for France. Louis XIII was much displeased on hearing of their dismissal, and declared

The Wedding of King Charles

that Charles had broken the marriage treaty. The seizure by English ships of certain French vessels, charged with carrying arms for the use of the Spanish in the Netherlands, was another ground of quarrel with the French King, and Charles found himself drifting into a war with France.

CHAPTER X: *The Assassination of the Duke of Buckingham*

KING CHARLES retained the Duke of Buckingham as chief royal favourite and allowed him to have even more influence in the Government than he had had in the previous reign. After the failure of Mansfield's expedition to the Palatinate the Commons had refused to grant more money for the war until it was taken out of Buckingham's hands. The first Parliament of Charles showed their distrust of the favourite by offering to grant the taxes on imports and exports, known as tonnage and poundage, for one year only, though these were usually granted to the sovereign for life. Though the King was in urgent need of money he angrily dismissed his first Parliament, declaring that he would not be ruled by any one in the choice of his ministers.

Soon after his marriage, Charles, on the advice of Buckingham, had lent some English ships to his brother-in-law, Louis XIII of France. The English seamen sailed in high spirits, believing that they were to be employed against the hated Spaniards, but, to their dismay, on reaching France they were ordered to proceed against the town of La Rochelle, held by some French Protestants, or Huguenots as they were called, who had rebelled against King Louis.

As the British sailors sympathized with the French Protestants they sent a petition to Buckingham begging that they might not be employed against La Rochelle. The Duke, however, refused to interfere,

The Assassination of Buckingham

whereupon many of the English sailors deserted and returned home.

The affair served to rouse fresh indignation in England against Buckingham.

War had been declared between England and Spain before the death of King James, and in October 1625 a British fleet was sent to attempt the capture of Cadiz, a port in Southern Spain. Much treasure, brought by the Spaniards from their American colonies, was said to be stored there. Want of funds and the Duke's mismanagement brought disaster on the expedition. Ploughmen and shop boys were collected by Buckingham to do duty as seamen, and he appointed to the chief command an officer who was completely ignorant of the sea, having served only in campaigns on land.

The troops sailed with an insufficient store of provisions, in unseaworthy ships, which they found great difficulty in navigating. On their arrival in Spain they captured a castle, in which they found many casks of wine. Instead of proceeding to Cadiz the half-starved men spent several days carousing until all discipline was lost, and many were attacked by fever. The commander was forced to get them on board as best he could and set sail for home. The fleet returned covered with disgrace, having squandered much money and sacrificed many lives uselessly.

The second Parliament of Charles met in February 1626 and demanded that Buckingham should be dismissed. The King sent two of its members to the Tower, but was obliged to release them again,

Charles the First

and as the impeachment of the Duke was proceeded with he dissolved Parliament. As the law of England does not permit that taxes be levied by the King without the consent of Parliament, Charles asked private gentlemen to lend him money. Those who refused were fined and imprisoned.

Had England remained on friendly terms with France, Charles might have secured the help of Louis XIII against Spain. But Buckingham imprudently quarrelled with Richelieu, the powerful French minister. The dismissal of Queen Henrietta Maria's French attendants had already displeased King Louis, and Buckingham's insolent behaviour put an end to all friendly relations with France.

The Duke now proposed to lead an expedition to assist the Huguenots of La Rochelle against the French King, hoping, by his zeal for the Protestant cause, to regain the favour of the English people. Charles succeeded with great difficulty in raising money for the undertaking, and a fleet of 100 ships with 7000 men was got together. They sailed for the Island of Ré, off La Rochelle, the Duke of Buckingham himself being in command of the expedition.

The Duke showed great courage and energy and fair skill as a commander ; but the men were beggarly, untrained and mutinous. The troops which were to have reinforced the English in the Isle of Ré never arrived. While the Duke waited, a French army advanced unexpectedly and attacked his forces. He was afterward blamed for not having retreated while it was possible to do so, for though he knew that

The Assassination of Buckingham

the position was hopeless he preferred to sacrifice lives uselessly rather than that the English should seem to flee.

More than half their number were cut down by the French ; forty English flags were captured and hung up in the cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.

Nothing was left but for the Duke to return home with the shattered remnants of his fleet. There were few families in England who had not to mourn the loss of a father, a husband, or a brother. Never within so short a time had so many overwhelming defeats disgraced the British arms as during the first three years of Charles's reign.

The third Parliament of Charles met in March 1628, and openly denounced Buckingham as the source of all the misery in the kingdom. He was charged with wasting the revenues of the country, with carrying on the war for his own ambitious ends, with appointing unfit officers to places of trust, and with appropriating crown lands for himself and his relations.

Nothing could shake Charles's confidence in him. The King sympathized deeply with what he considered the misfortunes of his friend, and regretted that he could not lighten his burdens by sharing them. He continued to console the defeated general with the hope that by some new expedition he might yet win back the confidence of the nation.

The town of La Rochelle, in which were 15,000 Huguenots, had now been besieged by the armies of the French King for nearly a year. The inhabitants, now brought to the greatest misery from famine, sent

Charles the First

a message to King Charles begging for help. Not an animal nor a reptile that had life in it was left in the starving town. The inhabitants were reduced to feeding on old leather skins soaked in tallow ; parchment boiled in sugar was considered an elegant and costly meal. It was evident that the Huguenots could not hold out much longer, and no time was to be lost if relief was to be sent to them from England.

Buckingham determined to go a second time to their help, and sent them the following message : " Hold out for three weeks, and, God willing, I will be with you either to rescue or to die with you."

In August 1628 the Duke went to Portsmouth to make arrangements for the fitting out of another expedition with all possible dispatch ; and King Charles spared no effort in raising money to place ships at the disposal of his favourite. In a short time another fleet was in readiness to sail for La Rochelle.

A certain John Felton had served as a lieutenant under Buckingham in the expedition to the Isle of Rhé. He had conceived for the Duke a bitter enmity, because the latter had refused to promote him to a higher rank or to increase his pay. After his return from Rhé the money due to him for his services was not paid, and he spent some months living in poverty in his mother's house in London. He had read the charges brought by the Commons against Buckingham, and had studied a collection of tracts called *The Golden Epistles*, which taught that everything was lawful which was done for the good of the State. He

The Assassination of Buckingham

therefore resolved to rid the country of a tyrant. On a paper which he pasted to the lining of his hat he wrote: "That man is cowardly, base, and deserves not the name of a gentleman or a soldier who is not willing to sacrifice his life for the honour of his God, his King, and his country. Let no man commend me for doing it, but rather blame themselves, for if God had not taken away our hearts, the tyrant would not have gone so long unpunished.

"JOHN FELTON."

On the morning of August 20, Felton entered a cutler's shop in Tower Hill and bought for tenpence a common knife with a long, sharp blade. He afterward visited a church in Fleet Street and left his name, requesting that he might be prayed for as a man much disturbed in mind. He then set out on foot for Portsmouth.

Wagoners wending their way homeward with their harvest loads gave a lift now and then to the meanly-clad, melancholy man whom they overtook tramping southward. He reached Portsmouth on the morning of Saturday, August 23.

The house in which the Duke and his wife were staying was a large irregular building with two stories. The sleeping chambers of the second story opened on a gallery which crossed the end of the central hall. The hall communicated with the front entrance by a dark passage at the bottom of the gallery stairs.

On this Saturday morning the hall was crowded with officers coming and going to receive orders from Buckingham. The King was at Southwick, four miles

Charles the First

distant from Portsmouth, and the Duke was preparing to proceed thither to bid his sovereign farewell before sailing. As he passed into the crowded hall from the apartment in which he had breakfasted, he stopped to speak to Sir Thomas Fryer, one of his lieutenants. At that moment Felton, who had entered unobserved and had been standing at the entrance to the dark passage, stepped forward and plunged his knife into the Duke's left breast, saying, "God have mercy on your soul!"

"Villain!" exclaimed Buckingham, and wrenching the knife from the wound he made a step forward as if to follow the assassin. The next moment he fell backward with blood gushing from his mouth and from the wound. A terrible scene followed. The Duchess of Buckingham rushed into the hall, and with heartrending cries threw herself on the bleeding, lifeless body of her husband.

In the confusion the assassin might have escaped had he chosen, but he lingered outside the hall, seemingly in a dazed condition. He had lost his hat, which was picked up with the writing inside by one of the Duke's attendants. While every one was talking at once Felton fancied he heard his name pronounced and supposed that he was discovered. He stepped calmly into the hall, saying, "I am the man." He was immediately arrested.

The body of Buckingham was carried to the room where he had breakfasted, and a messenger set off to Southwick to tell the King. Charles was at morning prayers with his family and attendants when the

The Assassination of Buckingham

messenger entered and whispered in his ear the terrible tidings. He remained kneeling until the chaplain had concluded the service, and then hurrying to his private apartment he threw himself on the bed, sobbing bitterly.

When the news of Buckingham's murder reached London the citizens rejoiced and Felton's health was drunk on every side. A few days later, when he was conveyed through London to the Tower, a multitude of people flocked to greet him. "The Lord comfort thee! The Lord preserve thee!" they cried as the Tower gates closed upon him. He was hanged at Tyburn some weeks later.

King Charles wished to honour his dead friend by a public funeral, but he was warned that the people of London were in no mood to tolerate such a display, and that the procession would probably be mobbed. So the body of the murdered Duke was buried privately in Westminster Abbey.

The expedition sailed to La Rochelle under a new leader, but failed to relieve the city, which soon afterward surrendered to the army of King Louis.

CHAPTER XI: *Archbishop Laud and the Puritans*

THE noble bearing, personal courage, and virtuous life of King Charles entitled him to the love and respect of his subjects. But, like his father, he believed the power of the sovereign to be supreme, and that Parliament, as his council, had no powers or privileges except those which he or his ancestors had granted it. He declared that kings ruled, not by consent of the people, but by Divine Right, and were therefore above all laws.

British sovereigns before him had held these same views without causing offence to their subjects. As the middle classes in England became wealthier and more powerful they were less disposed to submit to oppression of any kind from the sovereign, or to admit that he had a right to override the laws.

In the third Parliament of Charles the leader in the debates was Sir Thomas Wentworth, a Yorkshire knight ; he was a brave man and an able statesman. He proposed to bring forward a Bill known as the Petition of Rights, which required, among other things, that the King would not again raise forced loans of money, that he would not quarter soldiers in private houses without permission, and that he would not imprison any one without showing the cause. King Charles very reluctantly gave his consent to this famous Petition, which henceforth became law, and which ranks with Magna Charta in safeguarding the freedom and liberty of Englishmen.

Laud and the Puritans

There existed at this time in England a large and increasing party called Puritans, who wished the Church services to be as simple as possible. They disapproved of all ceremonies and of the wearing of vestments, which they considered 'popish' and savouring of idolatry. They formed religious communities among themselves, calling each other 'Brother This' and 'Sister That.' Their dress was studiously out of fashion, being sad-coloured and simply-cut. Instead of the beautiful lace collars which were modish in Charles's reign they continued to affect the frilled neck ruffs which had been fashionable in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. They wore their hair cropped short as a protest against the love-locks of the courtiers. These eccentricities, however, were adopted less by the Puritan gentry than by the tradespeople, who took a pride in thus protesting against the appearance of rank to which they could not aspire.

In its beginning Puritanism sprang from a hatred of all that was false and artificial, and from an earnest desire to rise above the frivolity and carelessness of the age to loftier aims and a nobler life. In those days people had become careless in matters of religion, and it was customary to hold all kinds of entertainments on Sunday. Coarse and profane language, gambling and drunkenness were indulged in even by persons of rank. The Puritans led many to abandon vice by bringing their religion into close touch with everyday life. They were a source of strength to England, for the purity of their lives and the steadfastness of their purpose developed all that was vigorous

Charles the First

and earnest in the English character, and many of the English people joined their ranks.

Gradually, however, Puritanism fell from its high place. Men of lofty mind began to shun pleasure as if it were an evil in itself, and feared even to indulge in laughter. They fell into the grievous error of believing that all beautiful ornaments were sinful and that even harmless joy was displeasing to God. They thought so long and so earnestly about right and wrong that their lives became a burden to them. To them there seemed no need for beauty and grace in God's house, and even in the repair and restoration of churches they saw only a move toward 'Popery.'

King Charles had placed Church affairs almost entirely in the hands of William Laud, Bishop of London, who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633. Laud disliked the Puritan party, and opposed their aims. To this end he revived many ancient church ceremonies, holding that outward forms of devotion best tended to impress the worshippers and to lead them to feel in their hearts the reverence expressed by the ceremonial. In his antagonism toward the Puritan party Laud had King Charles's sympathy and support. However, each attempt upon his part to magnify the ceremonies of the Church and the power of the bishops only served to confirm the Puritans in their steady opposition to everything of the kind. Many matters which seem of little consequence to us at the present day were then the subjects of endless wrangling and bitter enmity. The question whether the minister who officiated at the Holy Communion

Laud and the Puritans

should be called a priest or a clergyman was one point of bitter dispute, and whether he should wear one kind of dress or another was another point of contention. The practice of bowing toward the altar was also made a bone of contention.

Laud was grieved to find that in many country places the altar had been removed to the middle of the church, where it was not unfrequently used as a stand for hats, sticks, and coats. This he very rightly considered a desecration of the Holy Table. With the consent of Charles he issued an order for the removal of the altars to the east end in all churches. Unfortunately Laud went further and insisted on the observance of many unimportant details in the services. He exerted his whole energy in urging that exactly the same ceremonies should be used in every church in England.

A High Commission Court, which had been set up in the time of Queen Elizabeth, tried those of the clergy who would not conduct the services as Laud directed, and many were expelled from their livings. A Scottish clergyman who had written a violent treatise against Episcopacy, or the government of the Church by bishops, was brought before this court and sentenced to be publicly whipped in the pillory, and to have his ears cropped and his nose slit. Such barbarous sentences caused Laud to be hated and feared by the English people.

Soon after he became King, Charles had promised to go to Scotland to receive the crown of that kingdom, but the unsettled state of England and want of money

Charles the First

had forced him to postpone his Scottish coronation year by year. At length he proposed that the Scottish crown should be sent to London and placed on his head at a second coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey. But the Scots proudly declared that if their crown was not worth a journey to Scotland they would find some other means of disposing of it. This threat served to show the King the imprudence of longer delay, and in the summer of 1633 he prepared to set out for Scotland.

King Charles invited the chief of the English nobility to join him, at their own expense, in his progress northward. They accordingly showed their loyalty on the occasion by preparing to accompany him in magnificent array. Each peer brought with him forty to sixty gentlemen, with as many horses richly caparisoned. More than five thousand volunteers joined the royal cavalcade, among whom were many clergy, including Laud, Bishop of London.

The splendid train set out on May 2. For some days the northern road presented a continuous pageant of gay processions. All the noblemen whose country houses lay along the route were expected to provide magnificent entertainment for the King and his suite. To many the royal visit cost thousands of pounds and involved them heavily in debt for years afterward.

On reaching Scotland the magnificence of the hospitality offered to the King was redoubled, for the Scottish nobles preferred to ruin themselves rather than appear less loyal than their English neighbours. As soon as Charles crossed the Scottish border the

Laud and the Puritans

English nobility who were in attendance on him gave place to Scots who by rank or office were entitled to the honour.

On June 15 the King with his suite entered Edinburgh by the western gate. He was met by the Lord Provost and the chief citizens, accompanied by the flower of the Scottish nobility. The romantic city, fitted by nature to be the scene of a royal parade, had then only one long street, which extended from the Castle on the hill to Holyrood Palace. A halt was made outside the Town House, known as the Tolbooth, where a splendid pageant had been prepared in honour of the King. In this 108 Scottish monarchs from Fergus I were represented in right royal array. They recited poems composed by Scottish poets in praise of Charles.

On June 18 King Charles was crowned in the chapel of Holyrood Palace by the Archbishop of St Andrews, assisted by four Scottish bishops. Laud had insisted that wax candles and a crucifix should be placed on an altar during the ceremony, and that the bishops who officiated should wear capes or cloaks of blue silk trimmed with gold lace. This displeased the Scottish people, who hated such rites even more than did the English Puritans. They feared that Laud wished to restore the Roman Catholic religion in Scotland. In spite of this Charles was crowned amid an outburst of loyalty which effaced in some measure the sad memory of his almost private, and less honoured, coronation in England.

On June 20 the King was present at a meeting of the

Charles the First

Scottish Parliament, when certain grievances of the nobles concerning Church lands, which had been taken from them, were brought forward, but Charles refused to discuss the subject, telling them sharply that it was their business not to dispute but to vote.

Before returning to England the King visited other parts of his northern kingdom, and greatly enjoyed his excursions. In spite of all that had passed to cause discontent, he was received everywhere with signs of affection. During his stay in Scotland he arranged for the establishment of a bishopric at Edinburgh, that city and the surrounding country having previously formed part of the diocese of St Andrews.

On July 18 King Charles set out on his homeward way. He travelled with all speed, for since his marriage he had never been separated for so long from his Queen. Henrietta Maria had remained at Greenwich Palace, having refused to share Charles's Scottish coronation for the same reason as she had refused to be present at the English ceremony. She was now the happy mother of two handsome children—Charles, aged three, and Mary, one year old. A second son, christened James, after his grandfather, was born soon after King Charles's return from Scotland. Three other little Princesses, Anne, Elizabeth, and Henrietta, and a third Prince, named Henry, were afterward added to the royal family. The Princess Anne, who was a remarkable child, died of consumption in 1640 at the age of four.

The Queen had now attained the full perfection of her womanly beauty, and famous poets wrote

Laud and the Puritans

verses in her praise. She kept a gay Court, and delighted in all kinds of entertainments. Like most great ladies of the period she had a fancy for dwarfs. One day when dining at the house of a nobleman she was invited to partake of a cold venison pie, which occupied the centre of the table. When some of the crust was removed a little man named Jeffrey Hudson, only eighteen inches high, rose out of the pie and hastened to present himself before Her Majesty's plate, entreating to be taken into her service. The Queen was greatly delighted and made him her chief dwarf, though she already had two others in her service.

CHAPTER XII: *The War with the Scots*

AFTER the dismissal of Charles's third Parliament in 1629, he did not call another for eleven years. During that time he devised many unlawful methods of raising money. One of these was the granting of what were called monopolies. He would select some important articles in general use and give the sole right of manufacturing them to certain persons, who undertook to pay a large part of the profits to him. Soap was one of the articles chosen, and the sole right to manufacture it was given to a company; so with leather, salt, and various other necessities. Persons who obtained these privileges often abused them by selling the article in an inferior quality or by charging enormous prices for it. Nothing prevented their doing this, as they had no competitors, and the public who were unable to do without these things consequently suffered great injustice.

Fines levied in the Court of the Star Chamber were another source of income to Charles. This 'famous Court is said to have been so named because the ceiling of the hall in which it sat was formerly ornamented with stars. It was composed chiefly of members from the Privy Council, who could be dismissed at His Majesty's pleasure. Many persons accused of speaking disrespectfully of the King or his ministers were brought before the Court of the Star Chamber and sentenced to pay heavy fines.

The War with the Scots

This Court also dealt with disputes concerning land. There was at that time a law against turning tilled land into pasturage, though many who had done so escaped punishment. The King now decided to enforce this law. All landed proprietors who had turned labourers away from their homes in order to use their tilled land for pasturage were brought before the Court of the Star Chamber and heavily fined. One wealthy landowner was sentenced to pay a sum equal to £4000. Others offered to give large sums to the King on condition that they were not prosecuted; £30,000 was collected in this way.

There were in those days large tracts of land known as King's Forests, the limits of which were not clearly defined. Charles caused an examination into the original boundaries of the forests, which grants and cultivation had gradually diminished. Greatly extended boundaries were now claimed, and many landowners were thus accused of having encroached on the Crown lands, and were fined by the Star Chamber.

As the Dutch and French had made an alliance and threatened England with their powerful navies, Charles thought that our country ought to have a fleet for purposes of defence. In olden days the coast towns had paid a regular tax to provide ships of war. In 1634 Charles revived this tax, which was known as 'ship-money,' and in the following year he required the inland towns, as well as those on the coast, to contribute.

The King had promised, in accordance with the Petition of Right, not to levy taxes without the

Charles the First

consent of Parliament ; but he maintained that ship-money was not a tax, but a sum paid in place of the services due from all Englishmen for the defence of their country. Much dissatisfaction was aroused, however, by the levy of ship-money, and the murmurs against it increased.

John Hampden, a gentleman of Buckinghamshire, who had been imprisoned in the early part of Charles's reign for refusing to pay a forced loan, now refused to pay the tax of twenty shillings levied on his estate for ship-money. The case was tried before a court of twelve judges, seven of whom decided in the King's favour, and Hampden was forced to pay the tax. He had expected that the decision of the judges would be against him, but he hoped, by his resistance, to draw attention to the King's unjust claim. As he had foreseen, the whole country talked about his case, for it was amazing to see a gentleman of fortune putting himself to great trouble and expense on account of the sum of twenty shillings. He was afterward called the Patriotic Hampden, and his name will ever be celebrated in history. In these and in similar ways large sums of money were collected by King Charles. The discontent of the English people was silenced by force, and gradually became more dangerous.

In September 1633 Laud had been made Archbishop of Canterbury, and his power in Church matters was supreme. He now proposed to make the Church of Scotland conform to the English Church in its rites and ceremonies. As many of the ceremonies

The War with the Scots

introduced by Laud resembled those used in the Roman Church, the Scots feared that the Roman Catholic religion, for which many of them had the greatest hatred, was about to be restored in Scotland. It became impossible to persuade the Scots that the Archbishop had no such intention.

At the time of the Reformation, in the sixteenth century, the Scots had thrown off the authority of the Pope and had established the form of Church government known as Presbyterianism, in which there are no bishops, all the clergy being of equal rank. In the year 1610, however, King James, who disapproved of Presbyterianism, persuaded the Scots to restore Episcopacy, or the government of the Church by bishops. Three bishops were then consecrated for Scotland, and others were added during the reign of James; but the majority of the Scottish people at heart continued to prefer Presbyterianism, and looked on the bishops with distrust.

The prescribed form of prayers, psalms, and Scripture lessons used in the Church of England services is called the Liturgy. The Scots used no Liturgy, for they objected to set forms of prayers, and each minister offered to God, for himself and his congregation, such petitions as he thought fit. This was particularly displeasing to Laud, who decided to prepare a Liturgy for the use of the Scottish Church. When ready, it did not differ greatly from that in use in the Church of England, and it was approved by King Charles, who ordered the bishops to see that it was used in all the churches in Scotland.

Charles the First

Laud did not realize that he had taken a dangerous step in forcing the Scottish people to worship in a way that was displeasing to them. July 23, 1637, was the day fixed for the first reading of the new Liturgy in the Scottish churches. On that Sunday many women of the lower classes assembled in the Cathedral of St Giles, in Edinburgh. When the Dean opened the new Prayer Book and began to read the service shouts of disapproval from the women drowned his voice.

"The Mass is entered among us!" cried one. "Baal is in the Church!" shouted another. The Bishop of Edinburgh ascended the pulpit and attempted in vain to quell the tumult, exhorting them not to profane God's House by such a shameful scene. But his words only increased the clamour, and a stool, aimed by one of the women at the bishop, grazed the Dean's head.

After this insult the town constables were called in to clear the church of the rioters, who were with difficulty thrust into the streets and the doors locked in their faces. They continued for some time to beat the doors with their fists and to throw stones at the windows. Amid the crash of broken glass the service was continued to the end. When the doors were opened, and the Bishop came out, he was immediately surrounded by the mob, who cried that they would duck him in the pond. He was rescued by his footmen, and conveyed home in the carriage of a nobleman.

In other parts of Scotland similar riots took place when the new Liturgy was read, and in some churches

The War with the Scots

the congregations showed their disapproval by walking out as soon as the clergy began to read it.

King Charles and Laud were amazed to hear of the Scots' daring behaviour, and the King decided that his unruly subjects must be brought to obedience at all costs. The Scots sent messengers to the King, explaining that they had no wish to cast off his authority, but that they could not submit to interference in matters of religion.

While King Charles still hesitated as to the best means of bringing the disobedient Scots to reason, their leaders held meetings in all parts of the country till wellnigh the whole of Scotland had rallied to the cause. In February 1638 the Scots drew up a National Covenant, in which they bound themselves to support the Protestant religion against all who attacked it. This famous document is said to have been placed for signature on a tombstone in the kirkyard of an old monastery in Edinburgh, once held by the Grey Friars. On February 28 all the noblemen then present in Edinburgh were summoned thither.

At four o'clock on a grey winter evening the Scottish nobles began to sign their names; then came the gentry in order, and the signing continued by torch-light until eight o'clock. Next day the clergy were called upon to testify to their approval of the Covenant, and nearly 300 signatures were obtained. On the third day the people of Edinburgh were called on to sign. They came in great multitudes, both men and women, many of them weeping, for their religion was dearer to them than their lives. One by one

Charles the First

they stepped forward, and, before signing, each raised his or her right hand to heaven, and solemnly vowed to suffer the loss of all things rather than surrender their Protestant faith.

The National Covenant was looked on by King Charles as an open declaration of rebellion against his authority, and he determined to make war on the Scots. He succeeded in raising an army of paid soldiers, with which he marched northward. His troops consisted chiefly of peasants who had neither experience nor enthusiasm for the cause for which they were called on to fight. Few of them had any wish to fight against the Scots, with whom, on the whole, they were in sympathy. The Scots, on the other hand, had lost no time in drilling their troops, and appointed as their commander-in-chief Alexander Leslie, an officer who had fought under Gustavus Adolphus in the Thirty Years' War.

This expedition of Charles against his Scottish subjects is known in history as the First Bishops' War. The King stopped at York, where he established his Court with all possible pomp and parade. His design was to impress the Scots with such an idea of the greatness of his power as would cause them to submit at once. In this he had reckoned without a knowledge of the Scottish character. His northern subjects were of all people the least likely to be intimidated by mere show.

From York the King proceeded to Newcastle and thence to Berwick, where he pitched his camp. The Scots with 30,000 men advanced within seven

The War with the Scots

miles of Berwick, and Charles dispatched 7000 men to attack them. The Scots had collected great herds of cattle from all the surrounding country and arranged them behind their little army so as to look like a body of soldiers.

A troop of horsemen, the advance-guard of the English army, came in sight of this great host, which they found so much larger than they expected that they immediately decided to retreat. They fell back on the advancing foot soldiers, whom they ordered to retreat with them to Berwick. Though a few skirmishes took place between the two armies no important battle was fought during the campaign. The Scots showed excellent generalship, and conducted themselves with the greatest prudence. Though it was open to them to win a great victory over the royalist troops, they sent a message to the King offering to make peace. Charles willingly consented, for he had little desire to fight.

A treaty was signed at Berwick by which the Scots promised to disband their army and to restore to the King certain Scottish castles which they had seized ; it was also agreed that all matters relating to the Church of Scotland should be settled in a General Assembly of the Scottish people. This Assembly met at Edinburgh and decided to abolish Episcopacy in Scotland, the Presbyterian form of Church government being again established in its place. Thus Laud's attempt to force his own form of religion on the Scots ended in expelling it completely from the kingdom.

CHAPTER XIII: *Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford*

SIR THOMAS WENTWORTH, who had taken the lead in the preparation of the Petition of Right, soon afterward abandoned the parliamentary ideals and went over to the side of the King. He disliked the Puritans, and believed that the Commons were trying to get too much power into their own hands, so he decided to support Charles in his struggle against them, and, before long, became the King's chief adviser. His former friends naturally resented his desertion of their cause, and when the King created him a Baron and afterward a Viscount, they were very bitter against him. John Pym, one of the parliamentary leaders determined to work his ruin.

"You have left us," he said to Wentworth one day, "but we will never leave you while you have a head on your shoulders."

Both Charles and Wentworth believed that the great danger of the time was the growth of a spirit of mutiny and rebellion among the once loyal English people, and that the only way to put it down was to magnify the power of the Crown. Wentworth refused to adopt half-measures, and boldly asserted that the King, being above all law, had the right to govern entirely by his own will.

King Charles appointed Wentworth President, or Governor, of the northern counties of England. While holding this office he ruled with much prudence

Wentworth Earl of Strafford

and energy, and insisted so strictly on the careful collection of all taxes that he raised four or five times the amount collected by former governors. Service of this kind was much appreciated by the King, who was badly in need of money. It was chiefly owing to the help of Wentworth that Charles was able to rule for eleven years without calling a Parliament.

In 1632 the King appointed Strafford Lord Deputy of Ireland, and for seven years he governed that country with a strong hand. There was at that time much discontent among the Irish people, and quarrels continually arose between the Catholics and Protestants. King James had taken whole districts from the Irish Catholics and had granted them to Protestant settlers from England and Scotland. In Ulster, the northern province of Ireland, many Irish people had been driven from their homes to make room for English and Scottish settlers. This roused in the native Irish bitter hatred of the English Government, and Strafford had a hard task to maintain order.

But his firm rule soon worked wonders in crushing out all signs of revolt. Though he sometimes used harsh measures in putting down rebellion, he laboured to increase the trade and prosperity of the country. He taught the Irish people to grow flax for the manufacture of linen, which has ever since been one of their chief industries. Mobs of tattered ruffians were drilled into an army of smart soldiers, and schools were built throughout the country.

Strafford sent to England for two warships and employed them to drive pirates from the Irish coasts.

Charles the First

He also established severe laws against robbery and other crimes. The Irish people, however, were unused to restraint of any kind, and in spite of all he did for them Wentworth earned only their hatred and ill-will.

Meanwhile affairs in Scotland were still in an unsatisfactory state, for Charles, acting on the advice of Laud, had refused his consent to the abolition of Episcopacy in that country. Several months were spent in fruitless attempts to treat with the stern Covenanters ; at length Charles decided that another war with the Scots was unavoidable. Want of money was again his chief difficulty, for his reserve funds were all spent and his credit exhausted. In this extremity he sent a message to Ireland begging Wentworth to come to his assistance.

The Lord Deputy lost no time in obeying the summons of his royal master. Soon after his arrival in England he was created Earl of Strafford by the King. He advised Charles to summon an English Parliament, while he himself returned to Ireland to preside over one held in Dublin.

The Irish Parliament readily promised to raise a sum of money for the King's use in the war against the Scots ; but the English Parliament was less obliging. It met in April 1640, and Charles soon found that the members, instead of being prepared to help him, were nearly all on the side of the Scots. They would grant him no money except on condition that he made peace with his Scottish subjects, and that he granted them, and all others who might desire it,

Wentworth Earl of Strafford

liberty to worship in their own way. To avoid making this promise Charles dissolved Parliament. As it had sat for only twenty-three days, it is known in history as the Short Parliament.

In spite of the refusal of Parliament to grant him money, Charles continued his preparations for war against the Scots. Press-gangs marched through the southern counties of England, forcing poor men to enlist whether they wished to or not. An army of 30,000 men was raised, and with these Charles began his march northward in the summer of 1640.

Many of his soldiers were Puritans, who deeply resented being forced to fight against the Scots, with whom they were in full sympathy. On their way northward they broke into some of the English churches, burnt the altar-rails, and showed their hatred of Laud by removing the altars to the centres of the buildings. Whole companies deserted on the march, and Charles soon discovered that many of the inhabitants of the places through which they passed were on the verge of revolt, and ready to join with Scotland against him.

The Scots, learning that the English people were on their side, boldly crossed the border and invaded the north of England. Though they had mustered only about 4000 men they advanced to Newburn, where there was a ford over the river Tyne. There they encountered some English troops, whom they completely routed, and afterward, crossing the ford, took possession of Newcastle and Durham. They then

Charles the First

sent a message to Charles, offering to make peace with him on condition that he would grant their demands.

Charles, knowing that his army could not be trusted to fight for him, summoned a council of the peers to meet him at York. The peers advised that he should immediately make peace with the Scots and summon another Parliament. To this the unhappy monarch was forced to assent. Before returning to the south he signed a treaty with the Scots by which he granted all their claims to religious liberty. Had he been wise enough to do this three years earlier, he would have saved himself from some of the terrible misfortunes which were soon to overtake him.

King Charles's fifth and last Parliament met in November 1640 ; it is known as the Long Parliament, for it sat for nineteen years, and is the most famous in history. As Strafford had many dangerous enemies in the new Parliament he begged the King's leave to return to Ireland. Charles, however, refused to spare him, but declared that he should be protected from all danger, and that Parliament " should not touch a hair of his head."

Strafford then advised the King to arrest the parliamentary leaders on a charge of treasonable correspondence with the Scottish rebels. They had undoubtedly been guilty of this disloyalty, and it would have been well for Charles had he taken prompt measures to imprison them ; but news of his purpose got abroad, and the Commons determined to defeat it.

John Pym, the Earl's bitterest enemy, was the leader in the new Parliament, and proceeded to move

Wentworth Earl of Strafford

the impeachment of Lord Strafford on a charge of treason. News of this reached Strafford and he hurried to take his seat in the House, but he was greeted with shouts of "Traitor! Traitor!" and ordered to withdraw. He asked for liberty to defend himself, but this was refused, and he was conveyed to the Tower prison. Shortly afterward the parliamentary leaders caused Archbishop Laud also to be arrested and sent to the Tower. The two prisoners were confined in separate cells and were not permitted to see each other.

A large number of charges were brought against Strafford, the chief being that he had advised the King to employ an Irish army to subdue his rebellious English subjects. The Earl denied having given this counsel, and said he had intended the Irish army to be used only against the Scots.

Nothing worthy of death could be proved against the man who had spent his best years in the King's service. The Commons therefore decided to make him responsible for what they called the King's tyranny. At his trial in Westminster Hall the Earl defended himself with great ability and eloquence. Many who heard him were moved to tears. The trial lasted four weeks, and the King attended it each day, sitting in a curtained box where he could not be seen by the spectators.

When the Commons saw that it was doubtful if actual treason could be proved against him they prepared a Bill of Attainder, by which he could be condemned without proof of guilt. Yet he was still

Charles the First

safe so long as the King's consent to his death had not been given. Two days after the Bill had passed the Commons Charles wrote with his own hand to Strafford :

“ I assure you on the word of a King, though the misfortune that has fallen upon you renders it impossible that you should be employed henceforth in the royal affairs, yet you shall not suffer in life, honour, or fortune. This is but justice, and therefore a very mean reward from a master to so faithful and able a servant as you have shown yourself to be ; yet it is as much as I conceive the present times will permit, though none shall hinder me from being ever your constant and faithful friend. “ CHARLES R.”

After the Bill had passed the Lords Charles went to the House and promised that Strafford would never again be employed in any office of trust provided his life were spared. The parliamentary leaders, however, were deeply offended at what they called the King's interference. It was rumoured that Charles had secretly plotted with the army to rescue Strafford from the Tower by force, and a close watch was kept round his prison.

One terrible night an infuriated mob surrounded Whitehall Palace and threatened the Queen and her children, shrieking for Strafford's blood. Upon hearing of this the Earl sent his royal master a touching letter, in which he begged Charles to allow the sacrifice if it would bring him safety.

The unhappy King was at length moved to give way, and signed a warrant for Strafford's execution.



Charles signing the Warrant for Strafford's Execution
Eileen M. Robinson and Irene Ward

Wentworth Earl of Strafford

He is said to have regretted this act until the day of his death. Even the Earl's bitterest enemies were astonished when they heard the news.

"Has the King given us Strafford? Then he can refuse us nothing!" they cried in triumph.

When Strafford was told that the King had consented to his death he only said, very sadly :

"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the sons of men, for in them is no salvation."

He asked that he might have a last interview with Archbishop Laud, but this was refused him.

On the morning of May 12, 1641, Strafford was led forth to die. As he passed the window of Laud's cell, the aged prelate stretched out his shaking hands through the bars to bless him. Strafford knelt reverently to receive the parting benediction of his old friend.

"Farewell, my lord, may God protect your innocence," said Strafford, and passed on his way calm and fearless. One who saw him go said that "his step and air were those of a general marching at the head of an army to breathe victory, rather than of a condemned man to undergo death."

An immense crowd had assembled on Tower Hill to see him die. Having bidden farewell to his brother George, who stood beside him weeping bitterly, he joined for a few minutes in prayer with the chaplain. He then gave the sign that he was ready for death by calmly raising his hand. The executioner did his work at a single blow.

"His head is off! His head is off!" yelled the mob, for they were wild with joy at the death of the Earl.

CHAPTER XIV: *King and Parliament*

AMID the awful scenes that accompanied Strafford's trial and condemnation, King Charles's eldest daughter, the Princess Mary, a fair-haired, blue-eyed child of ten, was married to the son of the Prince of Orange. No sadder time could have been chosen for a royal wedding, but as all the preparations had been made some time previously it was impossible to delay the ceremony. Prince William, the bridegroom of fifteen, had arrived from Holland in great state with his suite. He was not considered a brilliant match for the eldest daughter of the King of England, who had destined the Princess for a husband of higher rank. But as the Prince of Orange was a Protestant, Charles hoped that the marriage would please his English subjects, and would also secure help from Holland against his enemies should need arise. It was agreed that after the marriage the Princess Mary should remain with her parents for at least two years before going to live in Holland.

William was a handsome youth of grave and dignified bearing, who despised childish amusements. In his studies he was far in advance of his age, and could speak five European languages fluently. He already took an active part in the government of his father's dominions. The Prince was delighted with his fairy-like bride, whom he had never seen until he came to wed her. His love for her remained constant as long as he lived.

King and Parliament

The marriage was celebrated very quietly in the chapel of Whitehall Palace on May 2, 1641, the Bishop of Ely performing the ceremony. Prince William wore a suit of crimson velvet, with a Vandyck collar of deep point lace ; his little bride was simply dressed in a robe of silver tissue. He placed on her tiny finger a gold ring, and after the ceremony they received the Communion. No festive pageantry, no bonfires or rejoicings, no dancing or merriment marked the event. A deep gloom hung over the Court, and it was felt that any show of mirth would be a mockery.

The Prince regretted that he was not allowed to take his little bride back with him to Holland, where she might be safe from the dangers that surrounded her in England. Her father's troubles had already left their mark in an expression of wistful sadness on her young face. Soon after the wedding the Prince returned to Holland with his suite.

The execution of Strafford, as might be expected, failed to satisfy the King's enemies. The victory won by the Commons had increased their confidence in their own powers, and caused them to demand more concessions from the King. The more he yielded the bolder they became, for they considered that they were doing the State a great service in stripping the King of his power.

Charles, overwhelmed with grief by the death of Strafford, whom he felt he had betrayed, gave his consent indifferently to nearly every measure which Parliament chose to bring forward. Bills were passed abolishing ship-money, the Courts of the Star Chamber

Charles the First

and High Commission, and taking away from the King the right to levy taxes of any kind.

At this time many of the leading members in the House were Puritans, and desired the abolition of Episcopacy in England. A Bill was brought in to deprive all the Bishops of their Sees, but certain members refused to agree to it, so it did not pass. The Bishops were, however, deprived of their seats in the House of Lords.

Encouraged by the Commons, all classes of people began to present to Parliament petitions concerning their grievances. Apprentices, porters, and even beggars complained that they had long been great sufferers from the King, the Lords, and the Bishops.

We have seen that, on former occasions, when the King got into trouble with his Parliament he dissolved it, and governed without one.

At the time of Strafford's trial a Bill had been brought into the Commons providing that the House should not be adjourned, or dissolved, without its own consent. King Charles was very unwilling to sign this Bill, but in that time of terrible danger he was forced to do so.

Deprived of the counsel of Strafford, who had served him so faithfully, Charles now turned to the Queen for advice and sympathy. Though Henrietta Maria was moved by true love for her husband, the plans she formed for his aid were not always wise, or likely, if adopted, to mend matters. At one time she proposed that Charles should borrow from the Pope money and troops with which to crush his

King and Parliament

rebellious Parliament. In return for the papal aid he was to grant many privileges to the English Catholics. The Queen had decided to leave England, taking the crown jewels with her ; but the Commons raised so many difficulties that she was forced to remain.

In the summer of 1641 King Charles proposed to set out for Scotland, on the pretext of confirming the treaty of peace made with the Scots. As the Commons strongly suspected that he hoped to get aid from the Scots against them, as was indeed the case, they brought forward a Bill requiring that before he set out he should issue orders for the disbanding of the Scottish army. Charles knew that a refusal to agree to this would at once make the purpose of his visit to Scotland plain to every one, so he was forced to consent.

On August 10 the King set out for Scotland. He received a loyal welcome in Edinburgh, and to please the Scots listened to many Presbyterian sermons. He hoped to win them to his side by showing that he had no further purpose of interfering with their religion. He soon discovered that the Scots had no intention of aiding him against the English Parliament. During his stay in Scotland quarrels arose between some of the Scottish nobles, and Charles was unjustly suspected of plotting with a Catholic lord against certain Presbyterian peers.

Meantime a terrible rebellion broke out in Ireland. We have seen that much discontent had been aroused among the native Irish, who had been driven from their homes to make room for English and Scottish

Charles the First

settlers. The Catholic nobles in Ireland were also dissatisfied because all the chief offices in Dublin were held by English Puritans. Should the Puritans become masters of England, it was certain that they would try to make Ireland Protestant.

In the spring of 1641 the Catholic lords had sent a secret message to Charles, offering to send an army to his help in England, on condition that they were allowed to seize Dublin and overthrow the government carried on there in his name. Charles was not unwilling to accept this offer, and had hopes of making Ireland a stronghold against Puritanism and the rebellious Parliament. But when he left for Scotland nothing had been definitely settled, and the Irish, impatient of delay, took matters into their own hands.

The plot to seize Dublin was discovered in time, and came to nothing ; but throughout Ulster terrible massacres of English and Scottish settlers took place. The half-barbarous peasantry, embittered by the loss of their lands and the insolence of foreign rulers, committed deeds of horrible cruelty. At one place a hundred English labourers were driven at the point of the pike into a deep and rapid river, and left there to drown. The fugitives were often stripped of everything they possessed ; women and little children were left without food, clothing, or shelter, and many starved or perished from exposure before they could reach a place of safety. The survivors, who found their way to some English fortress, were so wasted by famine and hardship that disease swept away great numbers of them. About 4000 or 5000 were

King and Parliament

massacred at the outbreak of the rebellion, and as many more perished later from sickness or exposure.

Many Catholic priests were accused of being concerned in the Irish rebellion, and the English Puritans declared that the rising was an attempt to restore Popery. It was even rumoured that the Queen had been concerned in the plot to massacre the Protestants, though there is no evidence that she had any knowledge of it.

The Parliament sent the Queen a message requiring that she should surrender her young children into their hands during the King's absence in Scotland, lest she should take the opportunity of making papists of them. It was reported that she had given the Princess Mary a crucifix and a rosary and taught her the use of them. The Queen replied that her sons were under Protestant tutors and guardians, and that it was not her intention to bring up any of her children in her own faith. She therefore refused to give them up.

Henrietta Maria had retired to Oatlands, in Surrey, with the younger children, and while there she learned that the parliamentary leaders were preparing to send an armed force to carry off her little ones. The poor mother bravely concealed her terror on receiving this news, and determined to die rather than surrender her children, the youngest of whom was at this time only six months old. In this terrible emergency she sent a secret message to London to ask help from certain private gentlemen whom she trusted to befriend her. While awaiting their reply she armed all

Charles the First

the men servants of her household, including even the kitchen scullions.

The gentlemen had no sooner received her message than they hastily armed themselves, and, mustering all their friends and attendants, rode at full speed to Oatlands to defend the Queen and her children. Before nightfall a large armed force had arrived to her help. They remained on guard all night; but the parliamentary leaders, hearing that the Queen had been informed of their designs and was prepared to resist them by force, resolved to abandon their attempt to seize the children.

Next day certain members of the House of Commons, fearing the King's vengeance, sent a message to the Queen declaring that they had not been concerned in the plot to seize her children. The royal mother was therefore left unmolested for the time being, although she had little hope that the parliamentary leaders would completely abandon their cruel purpose.

CHAPTER XV: *The Work of the King's Enemies*

SOON after the King's return from Scotland the parliamentary leaders drew up a paper called the Grand Remonstrance, in which they found fault with nearly everything he had done since the beginning of his reign. They also declared that the country was in the greatest danger through the plots of papists, who were planning a rebellion in England, as their brethren had done in Ireland. Charles offered to raise an army of 10,000 volunteers and lead them to Ireland himself in order to quell the rebellion there ; but the Commons refused to agree to this, for they feared that if the King were in command of an army he would use it against themselves.

Charles learned that certain of the parliamentary leaders were preparing to accuse the Queen openly of being concerned in the Irish rebellion, and he determined to punish them. His friends assured him that he had yielded too long to the unreasonable demands of the Commons, and that the time had come for him to assert his royal authority. He accordingly ordered five leading members of the House of Commons and one from the House of Lords to be arrested on a charge of high treason. The accused members were Pym, Hampden, Hazelrigg, Holles, Strode, and Lord Kimbolton.

The King sent a serjeant-at-arms to the House of Commons to arrest the five members, but the

Charles the First

Commons refused to give them up. He then resolved to go himself with a body of soldiers to seize them. About three o'clock in the afternoon of January 4, 1642, the King drove to Westminster, with about 300 armed gentlemen and servants in his train. Though he had tried to keep his purpose secret, warning of his coming had been sent to the House, and the river being close at hand the five accused members had immediately escaped by boat to the city.

Charles alighted from his carriage at the door of Westminster Hall ; he signed to his followers to remain without, but about eighty of them pressed in after him to the room where the Commons sat. The members rose and stood bare-headed as the King entered ; he passed straight to the chair of the presiding officer or Speaker, and looked round the House.

"Gentlemen," said he, "I am sorry for this occasion of coming to you. Yesterday I sent a serjeant-at-arms to arrest some who by my command were accused of high treason, and I expected them to be delivered up to me. I now declare to you that although no king who has ever reigned in England has been more careful of your rights and privileges than I, yet traitors have no privileges, and therefore I am come to know whether the accused persons are here, for as long as they sit in this House there can be no peace in the kingdom."

Silence followed the King's speech, for none dared tell him that the accused members had been permitted to escape. Charles turned to the Speaker :



The King demanding the Surrender of the Five Members

C. W. Cope, R.A.

Photo Emery Walker, Ltd.

The King's Enemies

"Where are the members whom I have come to arrest?" he asked. The Speaker in fear and trembling fell on his knees before the King.

"May it please your Majesty," he said, "I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as the House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am; and I humbly crave pardon that I can give no other answer than this to your Majesty."

"Well, I see the birds are flown," said the King, "but I expect that you will send them to me as soon as they return hither. I assure you on the word of a king that I never intended to use force, but to proceed in a lawful and fair way."

Charles then left the House and was received outside with shouts by his armed followers, whose threats and bragging had been heard through the open door.

After his departure there was much excitement in the House, for the Commons declared that his attempt to arrest any of their number was against the law, though it is certain that former sovereigns had not hesitated to arrest members from either House whenever it pleased them to do so. The Commons adjourned their meetings for a week, and great indignation prevailed against the King. Four thousand gentlemen rode from Buckinghamshire to London to demand justice for the accusations brought against John Hampden, their member of Parliament. The carriages of the bishops were mobbed as they drove through the streets, and riots took place in the city.

The King now decided to leave London with his wife and children. They withdrew to Hampton Court

Charles the First

almost unattended, for many of their servants had been persuaded to desert them. Little did King Charles dream when he left his palace of Whitehall that seven weary years were to pass before he would return, or how tragic would be the errand which would bring him thither at last.

Two days after the departure of the Court the accused members returned by the Thames to Westminster; they were escorted by 2000 armed mariners in boats, and by detachments of soldiers, with eight pieces of cannon, on each side of the river. The whole city turned out to do them honour, and the crowd indulged in mocking jeers against the unhappy monarch.

The Queen now prepared to depart for Holland on the pretext of conducting the Princess Mary to visit the family of her husband, the Prince of Orange. The Commons could find no reasonable excuse for preventing her departure, and on February 23 she sailed with the Princess from Dover. She took with her the crown jewels, in the hope of raising large sums of money on them, and she also expected to obtain troops to help her husband from Holland, Denmark, and other European Powers.

The King accompanied the Queen and the Princess to Dover, and watched their departing vessel with tearful eyes, for he doubted if he would ever again see his loved ones. As the wind was favourable for coasting he rode for four miles, following the vessel along the shore until it turned southward and was lost to his view. Then, sad at heart, he made his

The King's Enemies

way to Greenwich, and sent a message to Hampton Court summoning his eldest son Charles, Prince of Wales, who was now nearly twelve, to come to him.

The Commons on hearing of this sent to the King requesting that the Prince might not be removed from the care of his tutors at Hampton Court, but the bereaved father refused to comply with their request, and the Prince was brought to him.

So great was the storm raised against the King in London that he felt it prudent, in the hope of making peace, to declare he would take no further proceedings against the six members. He also invited the Commons to send him a statement of all their grievances, which he promised to consider carefully, and to redress.

There was at this time no standing army in England, but the men of military age, fit for service, were summoned every year from each county and drilled for a few weeks. They then returned to their ordinary pursuits. Regiments of these drilled men were known as train-bands, and all the train-bands in the country were spoken of as the militia. The Commons now asked King Charles to place all the militia in the kingdom under officers chosen by Parliament.

"Not for an hour," he replied haughtily. "It is a thing with which I would not trust my wife and children."

From Greenwich the King set out northward with the Prince. A message was sent to him from the parliamentary leaders requesting that, for the sake of convenience, he would reside near his Parliament.

Charles the First

This, however, he refused to do. "I would you had given me reason to remain near you," he said sadly.

After halting for some time at Newmarket Charles proceeded to York, where he remained for several months. The northern nobility and gentry rallied around him, for the inhabitants of these parts were still his loyal subjects.

On the disbanding of the army raised to fight against the Scots, all the artillery, arms and ammunition had, by the King's command, been sent to Hull, where it still remained. The members of both Houses now requested that the arms and gunpowder should be removed from Hull to the Tower of London, where they would be within easy reach if required for the troops that were being raised to quell the Irish rebellion. When Charles refused, they immediately suspected that he intended to use the arms against his rebellious Parliament. They appointed Sir John Hotham, a Yorkshire knight, to be governor of Hull, with authority to raise train-bands to garrison the city. He received strict orders to admit no strangers within the walls without the consent of both Houses of Parliament.

On hearing this King Charles sent a message to London to inquire why a garrison had been placed in Hull without his consent, and soldiers billeted on the inhabitants. The Commons replied that they had taken these precautions on learning that a foreign army was about to invade England for the purpose of restoring the Roman Catholic religion in the country.

Soon after this the King learned that the magazine

The King's Enemies

was to be secretly removed from Hull to London without his consent, and he straightway resolved to go to Hull himself. James, Duke of York, the King's second son, had now joined his father at York, with his cousin Frederick, the eldest son of Elizabeth, the King's sister. Frederick had lately come from Holland to visit his uncle in England.

On the evening of April 21 King Charles sent James and his cousin to Hull. They were escorted by several gentlemen of rank, who supposed that the journey was undertaken for the purpose of giving pleasure to the princes.

Sir John Hotham received them with much civility and caused them to be lodged honourably in the town.

Early next morning the King, accompanied by about 3000 gentlemen from the northern counties, rode from York to Hull. When they were about a mile from the town a message was sent to Sir John Hotham informing him that the King would dine with him that day. This announcement threw Hotham into a state of the greatest consternation, for he knew not what excuse to make to keep the King out of the town. At length he sent a messenger to say that there was no means of lodging so great a company in the town. To this the King replied that he would enter with twenty horsemen only.

Sir John Hotham then appeared on the wall to confer with his Majesty, but the King ordered him to open the gates without delay. On this the knight fell on his knees, and talking confusedly, like a madman, called on the earth to open and swallow him up

Charles the First

if he were not his Majesty's most faithful subject. Nevertheless, he declared that he dared not betray the trust placed in him by Parliament by admitting the King within the walls.

This reply roused the indignation of the King's companions, who offered to attack the town and burn it to the ground. But as they had no gunpowder the King knew that it would be imprudent to make any immediate attempt to take Hull by force. He therefore requested that his son and his nephew should be sent out to him. After a delay of more than an hour the Princes were permitted to join the King with their escort, and the whole party rode back to York. It was now clear that there was no means of settling the dispute between the King and his Parliament save by war.

CHAPTER XVI: *The Civil War Begins*

AT about six o'clock in the evening of a stormy day in August 1642, the King's battle standard was run up on the Tower of Nottingham Castle as a signal that the civil war had begun. During the night it was blown down, and this seemed to many people an evil omen; it was afterward fixed in the ground.

The parliamentary leaders believed that the King would not be able to raise an army, but they had not counted on the spirit of chivalrous loyalty to the sovereign which still inspired many Englishmen. The greater number of the nobility and gentry in England were deeply attached to Charles, and to the form of religion which he supported. Those who fought on his side were called 'Cavaliers,' or horsemen, while those who fought for Parliament were known as 'Roundheads,' because, being Puritans, they wore their hair cut short.

The inhabitants of the south-eastern counties, which formed the richest part of England, were on the side of the Parliament, while the poorer people of the north-west took, on the whole, the King's side. Though a number of country gentlemen threw in their lot with the Roundheads, the Parliamentary army was composed chiefly of the middle classes from the towns. Their recruits were drawn from the shop, the wharf, and the mill, and included some regiments of experienced German soldiers who had

Charles the First

fought in the European wars. Their colonels appointed to the command of regiments were generally country gentlemen, or students from the Inns of Court. During the first part of the war the Roundhead army was commanded by Lord Essex, a prudent and cautious leader of no great ability. All the ports, including London, were seized by the Parliamentarians at the beginning of the war, and the command of the fleet was also in their hands.

The royal cavalry was commanded by Prince Rupert, the King's nephew, a dashing youth of twenty-three. He was the third son of Charles's sister Elizabeth, who had married the Elector Palatine. Rupert had visited England on several occasions, and was a great favourite with his uncle. He was now at the height of his youthful charm, and was the ideal of a gay cavalier—tall and strong, yet graceful in bearing. His dark hair fell in ringlets on his shoulders, and his face, which gave an impression of great firmness, was softened by the gentle expression of his dark eyes. He had served as a soldier in the German wars, and on the outbreak of the civil war in England he hastened to place his sword at his uncle's service.

On the way to England his ship narrowly escaped capture by the Parliamentary fleet, but he succeeded in eluding the King's enemies, and landed safely at Tynemouth.

The Earl of Lindsey had been appointed commander-in-chief of the Royalist army, but the King exempted Prince Rupert from taking orders from any one but himself. This was a mistake, for it caused much

The Civil War Begins

jealousy and ill-feeling among the other officers. Though Rupert was a splendid soldier, his haughty and imperious temper made him scorn to take advice from those who were older and more experienced than himself. He had, however, the power of inspiring his followers with his own energy and dauntless courage.

Rupert was famous for his dashing cavalry charges, which carried all before them. He taught his men to advance close to the enemy without stopping to fire their carabines, and then to charge home, sword in hand. But in the heat of battle he sometimes lost his presence of mind and forgot to provide for the attack of the enemy on more than one side.

While Rupert was hastening to join the King's army he had a fall from his horse, which dislocated his shoulder. This caused a delay of three days, but he at length joined the King at Leicester Abbey. The Royalist troops then consisted of only about 800 men, but Rupert's fiery energy soon greatly increased that number. He made rapid excursions in every direction in search of men, money, horses, and arms. His gay and gallant bearing delighted the youths of the northern counties, and they flocked in thousands to join him.

By the time King Charles entered Warwickshire his army consisted of 6000 foot soldiers, 1500 dragoons, and some 2000 cavalry. Many country gentlemen who had at first intended to take no part in the war were persuaded by the King to rally to his standard. Charles's charm of manner won many

Charles the First

hearts, and thousands of the Royalists placed all their wealth at his service.

There is a story that as the King marched through Warwickshire with his troops he met a country gentleman on his way to the hunt.

“ Who is this,” asked the King, “ who hunts so merrily, while I am going to fight for my crown and dignity ? ”

Richard Shuckburgh, for so the gentleman was named, was summoned to the King’s presence. What passed between them is not told ; we know only that Shuckburgh left the royal presence resolved to devote himself heart and soul to his sovereign’s cause. He quickly assembled his tenantry, armed them at his own expense, and hastened to join the King’s army. Next day he was knighted by Charles on the field of battle.

The first great battle of the civil war was fought at Edgehill, in Warwickshire, on October 23, 1642. The army of Royalists was drawn up on the crest of a hill overlooking a broad valley. The forces of Essex were assembled in a plain beneath. As they were inferior in number to the Royalists Essex could not attempt to storm the heights, but he marshalled them about a mile from the foot of Edgehill, in a plain known as the Vale of the Red Horse.

Early in the morning King Charles rode to the summit of Edgehill with his two eldest sons, Charles, Prince of Wales, and James, Duke of York. Though the Princes were aged only twelve and nine respectively, the King knew that their presence on the field of battle would rouse the enthusiasm of his soldiers.



Prince Rupert at Edgehill
Eileen M. Robinson and Irene Ward

The Civil War Begins

As the Royalists were short of supplies they could not delay the attack, and were therefore forced to descend from the hill. The infantry of each army formed the centre, with the cavalry on the wings. On the Royalists' right wing the main body of the horse was massed under Prince Rupert. The Earl of Lindsay was deeply hurt that the cavalry were not under his command, but he generously refused to desert the King, and took up his position like a colonel at the head of his own regiment, since he could not serve as commander.

The attack began at one o'clock in the afternoon. After a few cannon shots had been fired, Prince Rupert impetuously charged the left wing of the Parliamentarians, who were immediately thrown into a panic, and dispersed in all directions. Many of the fugitives never drew bridle till they reached London, where they spread the news of their defeat. After the flight of the cavalry a whole regiment in the army of the Parliament deserted, and went over to the King's side.

Meantime, Rupert forgot to look back, and while he still pursued the fugitives, the Royalist infantry, being left unprotected, suffered severe losses. Sir Edward Verney, the King's standard-bearer, was killed, and the standard captured by the enemy, but it was retaken and restored to the King later in the day. The noble-hearted Earl of Lindsay was mortally wounded, and was carried to a cottage near at hand, where he died during the night, after some hours of terrible suffering.

Charles the First

King Charles himself was in the greatest danger, for the bullets fell thickly round him while he rode fearlessly along the Royalist ranks, encouraging his soldiers to maintain their ground. Prince Charles and his brother James narrowly escaped being taken prisoners. Though the losses on both sides were very severe, the Royalists, on the whole, had the advantage. But for Rupert's unwise pursuit of the fugitives a brilliant victory might have been gained for the King. Only after an absence of many hours did the cavalry return to the field in time to save Charles from defeat.

The early dusk of the chill October evening put an end to the combat. On the following day Essex retreated to Warwick, and Charles began his march to London, intending to take possession of his capital and to dissolve the rebellious Parliament by force. Essex, however, reached London before him, and the Londoners, assembling in great force, barred the King's way at Turnham Green, in Middlesex.

Charles retreated with his army along the Thames valley. He halted at Reading, which had meantime been seized by Rupert's cavalry. There the Prince of Wales became ill with an attack of measles, and the King was reluctantly forced to leave him behind with an escort. The Royalists then marched to Oxford, where Charles took up his winter quarters.

CHAPTER XVII: *The Queen's Adventures*

QUEEN HENRIETTA MARIA and her little daughter were well received in Holland by the Prince of Orange. Though she was unable to obtain troops to help her husband, the Queen received a large supply of gunpowder and arms from the Dutch. She also raised a sum of more than two million pounds on her jewels.

While the Queen was abroad several letters sent to her by the King were seized by spies and taken to the Parliamentary leaders. Henrietta became so anxious for tidings that one day she disguised herself and went to the shop of a Dutch bookseller to inquire the latest news from England. Many of the letters which passed between her and the King at this time have been preserved, and prove how true was the devotion of the royal pair to each other. Here is a letter from Henrietta to Charles :

“ MY DEAR HEART,

“ This is to show that I let slip no opportunity for writing to you. We have at length, after much labour, concluded a bargain for arms to the value of 10,000 pieces ; in two or three days if the wind is fair I will send them, and by that opportunity I will let you know many things. I am in pain not to have received tidings from you. The report is here that you are before Hull ; you may judge of the anxiety I am in. This is all I shall say by the

Charles the First

bearer, except that I have no joy but in assuring you that I am with you in thought and affection, and more yours than yourself.

“HENRIETTA MARIA.”

When Henrietta had obtained all the stores which could be collected to assist the King, she bade farewell to the Princess Mary, who was left in the charge of her mother-in-law, the Princess of Orange, and set out for England. She sailed in an English ship, escorted by a Dutch squadron under the command of the famous Admiral Van Tromp.

In the North Sea the ships encountered a violent tempest, and for nine days the Queen and her retinue were tossed on the stormy waves, hourly expecting death. Her ladies wept and screamed continually, but the Queen never lost her high spirits, and laughed at their fears.

“Comfort yourselves, my dears,” she said gaily, “queens of England are never drowned.”

The ladies ceased their wailings to reflect on this, and having agreed that what she said was true, they were greatly consoled. Two of the ships went down in the gale ; the others were beaten back on the shores of Holland, and Henrietta Maria was forced to land again near the place where she had embarked.

After a few days’ rest and refreshment the brave Queen again set sail. This time she had a quick and prosperous voyage, and arrived off the Yorkshire coast on February 2, 1643, having been absent from England about a year.

The Queen's Adventures

The vice-admiral who commanded the Parliamentary fleet had received orders to lie in wait for her and prevent her landing in Yorkshire. She succeeded, however, in eluding him, and landed at Bridlington. This small town is picturesquely situated about six miles from the famous promontory of Flamborough Head, of which there is a beautiful view from the pier. The Queen, on landing, took up her residence in a house on the quay close to the water. Two days after her arrival the vice-admiral of the Parliamentary fleet anchored off Bridlington with five ships of war. Though he did not know in which house the Queen was lodged, he began to bombard the town.

At five in the morning Henrietta Maria was aroused from sleep by the thunder of cannon and the rattle of musketry. Many of the inhabitants of Bridlington hurried to her house and urged her to depart, for they feared to shelter a guest so dangerous to their own safety. They told her that the neighbouring houses had already been blown to pieces, and that her own would soon be destroyed and she herself killed. While they were still praying her to depart two cannon balls crashed through the roof and fell from the top to the bottom of the house where she was.

Dressing hastily she went out with her attendants, the bullets from the ship whistling around them as they fled. One of her servants was killed within a few yards of her mistress. When they had gone some way down the street the Queen remembered that a favourite old dog called Mitte, whom she loved very much, had been left behind. She immediately

Charles the First

returned, ran up the stairs to her room, and, catching up Mitte, who was sleeping in her bed, hastened to rejoin her attendants. They reached a deep ditch which had been dug on one side of a low hedge to prevent cattle from crossing the fields. There they found refuge for some hours while the bullets continued to hiss over their heads, without injuring them.

At last the tide began to ebb, and the vice-admiral, fearing that his vessels would be left aground, sailed away. The Queen and her attendants came out from their hiding-place, and were kindly received in the house of a Yorkshire nobleman. Henrietta remained in the neighbourhood of Bridlington for ten days, until all her stores were landed. Before her departure one of the officers who had bombarded the town was seized on shore. After trial by a Royalist court-martial he was condemned to be hanged.

The Queen happened to meet the procession when he was conducted to the place of execution, and asked what it meant. She was told that an officer who had assisted in attacking the town was about to suffer his just punishment.

"Ah, but I have forgiven him all that," said the Queen, "and since he did not kill me he shall not be put to death on my account."

She then commanded that he should be set at liberty. The man was so deeply touched by the Queen's generosity that he not only went over to the King's side himself, but he persuaded several of his ship-mates to do the same.

At length the Marquis of Newcastle, who held

The Queen's Adventures

York for the King, sent a gallant escort of 2000 cavaliers to conduct the Queen on her way southward. With them she set out in triumph, guarding six pieces of cannon, two smaller pieces of artillery, and 250 wagons loaded with money, arms, and barrels of gunpowder.

She rode all the way on horseback, and delighted the soldiers by taking her meals, like them, in the open air, without seeking shelter from sun or rain.

At York she was delayed for some months, the way to Oxford being blocked by the armies of the Parliament. Meantime the Commons had condemned her for high treason, and would willingly have given a free pardon to any one bold enough to kill her.

In July she reached Stratford-on-Avon, where she was welcomed by the inhabitants with songs and shouts of triumph, and was the guest of Shakespeare's daughter. There, too, she was met by Prince Rupert, who came with a powerful escort of cavaliers to conduct her to the King. Near Edgehill Charles had the great joy of meeting his beloved wife after their long separation. Their happy reunion was some consolation for the terrible trials they had both endured.

Henrietta Maria remained at Oxford until the following year. The town was then very unhealthy, and in the spring of 1644 she was attacked by fever, and daily became worse. Her physician advised her to depart to Bath for change of air, but neither she nor the King could endure the thought of another agonizing separation.

Meantime the armies of the Parliament approached

Charles the First

Oxford, and it seemed probable that a battle would take place in the neighbourhood. Charles, fearing for the Queen's safety, at last persuaded her to depart. On April 3 he accompanied her to Abingdon, in Berkshire, where, with tear-dimmed eyes, they bade each other farewell; they were never again to meet on earth. The Queen proceeded to Exeter in the hope of regaining her health, while the sorrow-stricken King returned to Oxford to continue the bitter struggle.

Early in 1643 negotiations for peace had been begun on both sides, but as the King's prospects of victory were then good he refused to agree to the demands of the Parliament that he would resign the control of the militia and of Church affairs; so the war continued.

During the next few months the Parliamentary side suffered several severe losses. In June the army of Essex encamped in scattered detachments along the Thames valley. Prince Rupert, having watched his opportunity, sallied from Oxford with 1000 horsemen, and routed a large body of the enemy. A few troops, hastily collected, pursued him and tried to cut off his retreat, but Rupert, suddenly turning on them, defeated them at Chalgrove Field.

In the skirmish John Hampden, who had won fame through his refusal to pay ship-money, was mortally wounded. He was seen riding off the field before the battle was over, which he never used to do, with his head hanging down and his hands resting upon the neck of his horse. The King, hearing that he was wounded, sent his own surgeon to attend him,



The Setting out of the Train-bands from London to raise the Siege of Gloucester

C. W. Cope, R.A.

Photo Emery Walker, Ltd.

The Queen's Adventures

but he died six days later. The Greyhound Inn at Thame, in Oxfordshire, is said to have been the place of his death. He was a wise and noble-minded man, on whose counsels the Parliamentary leaders could fully rely, and his death was felt to be a great loss to their side.

The victories of Rupert had now made Charles master of the greater part of the Midlands. In the north and west, too, the King's arms were successful, Hull and Gloucester being the only important towns still held by the Parliament.

The Parliamentary leaders, despairing of victory, decided to ask help from the Scots. The Scots promised their aid only on condition that an agreement, known as the Solemn League and Covenant, was signed. By this the English Parliament was forced to consent to the establishment of the Presbyterian form of worship, not only in Scotland, but also in England and in Ireland. When the Covenant had been signed the Scots began to raise an army to take the field against King Charles—the English Parliament having agreed to pay thirty thousand pounds a month toward its support.

In September 1643 Charles abandoned his plan to advance on London and determined to take Gloucester. His intentions were no sooner known than six regiments of the London train-bands made a rapid march westward. Essex hastened to join them with his army, and King Charles was forced to retreat, leaving Gloucester in their hands. He still hoped, however, to prevent Essex from returning to occupy

Charles the First

London. At Newbury, in Berkshire, the two armies met, and after a fierce battle Essex succeeded in cutting his way through the defeated Cavaliers. Many gallant Royalists were left dead on the field, among them Viscount Falkland, who had been one of the King's most loyal supporters. After the battle Charles again withdrew his forces to Oxford.

CHAPTER XVIII: *Marston Moor and Laud's Execution*

THE nobles and gentlemen who fought on the King's side had, for the most part, been trained to bear arms, and would have considered it a deep disgrace to desert their sovereign in battle. The Parliamentary army, on the other hand, being composed chiefly of farmers and shopkeepers, who had no military training and sometimes ran away during a fight, could not be relied on in the same way. It was not surprising, therefore, that in the early part of the war these undisciplined troops were no match for the Royalists. Had this state of things continued the war would almost certainly have ended in victory for the King, but just then there came to the front, on the Parliamentary side, a leader who was to change defeat into victory. This was Oliver Cromwell, one of the most remarkable men who ever lived.

Cromwell was a gentleman farmer of Huntingdonshire, who had entered Parliament at the beginning of Charles's reign, and had shown himself to be heart and soul on the Puritan side. In the House of Commons his clumsy, ungainly figure was sneered at by the young dandies. He had an ungracious manner; his complexion was muddy and sallow, his eye-brows large and bristling, and his nose red. He wore badly-cut clothes, which hung loosely on him, while his linen was plain and not very clean. Until the age of forty-three, when he joined the Parliamentary

Charles the First

army, he had had no experience in war. Nevertheless, he was a born soldier, and soon realized that the Round-heads would have no chance against an army filled with the spirit of loyalty to their King.

"Your troops," said he to Hampden, after the flight of the Parliamentary cavalry at Edgehill, "are for the most part old, decayed, serving-men, tavern-keepers, and such-like fellows, while the Royalist troops are composed of gentlemen's sons, younger sons, and persons of quality. Do you think that the spirits of such base and mean fellows will ever be able to encounter gentlemen who have honour, courage and resolution in them? You must have men of spirit that are likely to go as far as gentlemen will, or you will be beaten still."

Cromwell himself set to work and trained a company of Puritans, who were filled with a spirit of deep religious piety. They neither drank nor swore, and came to be known as 'Cromwell's Ironsides' who never were beaten; they were so fiery, and at the same time so well under control that no body of horse on either side could compare with them. Though Cromwell was a strict disciplinarian he had the gift of winning the affection of his soldiers, and used to please them very much by clapping one or other of them on the shoulder, or by playfully boxing their ears.

Early in 1644 the Scottish army, commanded by the Earl of Leven, crossed the Tweed and joined the Parliamentary forces. After winning several skirmishes in the north, they marched to besiege York,

Marston Moor and Laud's Execution

which was still held for King Charles by the Marquis of Newcastle. Prince Rupert, who was now at the height of his fame, hastened northward with a large body of Cavaliers, and succeeded in driving the Roundheads from York without a battle.

The besiegers retreated to Marston Moor, eight miles from York. There the Roundheads had three armies in the field: one under Sir Thomas Fairfax, a Yorkshire knight, another from the eastern counties under Cromwell, and the Scottish army, under the Earl of Leven. Together they numbered 20,000 foot and 7000 horse. Rupert and Newcastle had 11,000 foot and 7000 splendid cavalry, who, up to that time, could boast that they had never been beaten.

Rupert was warned by Newcastle not to give battle to the three armies drawn up on Marston Moor, but he declared that he had been ordered by the King to fight them. Yet he had heard wondrous tales of the fiery energy of Cromwell's troops, and before the battle he asked anxiously: "Is Cromwell there?"

The battle began at sunset on July 2, 1644. At first it seemed as if the Roundheads would be routed, for Fairfax's horse were driven from the field, and with them half the Scottish regiments. Cromwell fought with distinguished valour, though at the beginning of the battle he narrowly escaped death by a cannon ball, which grazed his cheek. His splendid generalship at length won the day for the Parliament. At his word the Ironsides swept down on the Royalist rear and completely routed it. They then turned to

Charles the First

assist the Scots, with whom they joined, and between them they drove Rupert's horsemen back in confusion.

Newcastle's gallant regiment, known as 'the White-coats,' alone withstood charge after charge, and when at last their ranks were broken, they refused all quarter and fought desperately hand to hand against overpowering numbers, till every man of them died. Three thousand of Rupert's gallant Cavaliers were slain, many were taken prisoners, and all his artillery and baggage were captured.

Night fell on the total overthrow of the King's arms, and the whole of England north of the river Trent was won for the Parliament. Rupert fled westward with his remaining Cavaliers, and the Marquis of Newcastle, who had fought unwillingly, took ship for France. The battle of Marston Moor had proved Oliver Cromwell to be no ordinary commander, but a man of genius.

After this battle the war might have ended in the complete defeat of the King had the Parliamentary leaders not begun to quarrel among themselves. The Puritans were now divided into two parties—the Presbyterians and the Independents.

The Presbyterians were opposed to the government of the Church by bishops and to the use of the Prayer-book, but they insisted that all the churches should be ruled by an assembly of divines appointed by themselves. The Independents, on the other hand, wished that each congregation should be free to settle its own religious affairs as it pleased. At the head of the Independents was Oliver Cromwell, whose power in

Marston Moor and Laud's Execution

Parliament greatly increased after his victory at Marston Moor.

Cromwell saw that if the war was to be carried on successfully it would be unwise to exclude all except Presbyterians from the army, as certain of the Parliamentary leaders wished to do. He advised that all Puritans who could prove their military efficiency should be permitted to serve as soldiers or officers, whether they were Baptists, Independents, or Presbyterians. The Presbyterians did not like this, and thought that only Presbyterians should hold office, either in the army or in the State.

Cromwell also accused certain Presbyterian leaders of lack of energy and intelligence in the conduct of the war. A violent quarrel took place in the House, and the Presbyterians denounced Cromwell as an enemy to the nobility and to the Presbyterian system. After prolonged and angry debates, it was resolved to pass an Act called the 'Self-denying Ordinance,' which forbade members of Parliament to serve in the army. This obliged Lord Essex to retire, and Sir Thomas Fairfax was appointed to take his place as commander-in-chief on the Parliamentary side. Cromwell, though a member of Parliament, received special permission to serve in the 'New Model Army,' as it was called, and he was now placed in command of the cavalry.

During the first two years of the Civil War old Archbishop Laud had been left to languish in the Tower. Though he had acted unwisely with regard to Church ceremonies, he had not deserved such

Charles the First

harsh treatment. His private papers had been seized, and his 'Diary' published by the Parliament. If anything was required to prove the blamelessness of his private life the 'Diary,' which was written for no eye but his own to see, should have done so; it contained many touching prayers for his enemies and for himself. But nothing could quench the malice of the Puritans.

His trial began on March 12, 1644, and continued for five months. Day after day the aged Archbishop was brought from the Tower, and defended himself before his judges with extraordinary courage and ability. He was charged with treason in attempting to change the religion and the laws of England. Yet as treason had always been defined as an act of rebellion against the King, it was found impossible to condemn him on this charge. As in the case of Strafford, an Act was brought in to condemn him without any evidence of his guilt. The trial was marked by the entire absence of any respect for law or justice, and the Archbishop was condemned to death.

A full pardon, signed with the great seal of England, had been sent by King Charles to the Archbishop. This Laud produced after the death sentence had been pronounced, but it was rejected by the Commons. He petitioned that he might be beheaded instead of dying on the gallows, the usual penalty for treason, and this was granted only with reluctance.

January 10, 1645, was the day fixed for his execution. On the evening before he partook of a modest

Marston Moor and Laud's Execution

supper and then retired to rest. He slept soundly, and did not wake until aroused by his servants. On Tower Hill a vast multitude had assembled to see him die. At the scaffold he was treated with indignity by the Puritans, and even those who approved least of his religious principles were revolted by the bitterness of his enemies.

After reading a speech, in which he acknowledged himself to have been a sinner, but solemnly protested his innocence of any offence deserving death, he presented the executioner with a piece of money, and gave him the sign to strike. Kneeling by the block he uttered the following touching prayer :

" Lord, I am coming as fast as I can ; I know I must pass through the shadow of death before I can come to Thee ; but it is but a mere shadow of death, a little darkness upon nature. But Thou by Thy merits and passion hast broken through the jaws of death. So, Lord, receive my soul, and have mercy upon me ; and bless this kingdom with peace and plenty and with brotherly love and charity that there may not be this shedding of Christian blood amongst them, for Jesus' sake, if it be Thy will."

He then prayed silently awhile, no man hearing what he said. His last words were, " Lord receive my soul." This was the sign for the executioner to strike. The famous Archbishop was aged seventy-two at the time of his execution.

CHAPTER XIX: *The Battle of Naseby*

WHILE the Royalist arms were meeting with disaster in England James Graham, Marquis of Montrose, a gallant Scottish nobleman, had roused the Highlanders of Scotland to fight for their King. Soon after the battle of Marston Moor Montrose had offered, with the aid of a regiment of Rupert's cavalry, to raise an army of Highlanders. Rupert refused to spare any of his men, and Montrose was forced to make the attempt unaided.

Disguised as a groom in attendance on two gentlemen, the Marquis made his way through the lowland districts held by the Covenanters to the highlands of Perthshire. The clan of the Macdonalds was at bitter enmity with the Campbells, whose chief, the Marquis of Argyle, was a stern Covenanter, and hence on the side of the Parliament. Montrose therefore counted on getting the Macdonalds to join him in fighting for the King. In this he was successful. The Highlanders, full of hatred toward the 'Covenanters, quickly rallied to his standard, and a regiment of Irishmen who had landed on the Scottish coast also placed themselves under his orders.

Montrose soon found himself at the head of an army of 3000 foot soldiers. But what an army! The men were half-clothed and wretchedly armed; some had swords and pikes, but the greater number had no weapons except stones, which they picked up

The Battle of Naseby

on the fields. Their only horses were the three on which the Marquis and his companions had ridden to Scotland, and these were wasted to skin and bone. With this rude force Montrose prepared to oppose three great armies. The Highlanders, however, were born fighters, accustomed to endure hardship, and Montrose easily inspired his followers with his own spirit of reckless daring. The troops of the enemy, on the other hand, were composed chiefly of townsmen untrained to arms.

The first battle was fought in the valley of Tippermuir, three miles west of Perth. The Covenanters' forces consisted of 7000 foot, 700 horse, and a train of artillery. The Marquis drew up his Highlanders in a long line only three deep. Seizing his opportunity at a moment when there appeared to be some confusion in the ranks of the Covenanters, he ordered his men to charge. The wild rush of the Highlanders, with their volleys of stones, was too much for the town-bred soldiers; they broke and fled in confusion, 2000 of them being killed either on the field or in the pursuit. All their arms, gunpowder, and baggage fell into the hands of the victorious Highlanders.

Three days after the battle of Tippermuir, Montrose was on the march for Aberdeen. Many of his Highlanders had deserted him in order to carry home their spoils, but with unquenchable courage he prepared to do battle with another great army, against overwhelming odds. Again the fierce onrush of his Highlanders carried the day, and a glorious victory

Charles the First

was won. Montrose was unable to control the greed of his needy followers, and, after the battle, Aberdeen was sacked and plundered without mercy.

Two of the Covenanters' armies had now been defeated, and though it was midwinter Montrose pursued the third army, which was led by the Marquis of Argyle, to the west. The mountain passes were unguarded save by the snow-drifts, for the Campbells believed that no army would venture across the snow-clad hills. But when Argyle learned that the Marquis had braved the winter snows and had followed him to the west with his terrible army, he gave up the struggle as hopeless, disbanded his troops, and fled for his life.

After spending a month in plundering the west Montrose led his Highlanders northward. On February 2, 1645, another great battle was fought at Inverlochy, in Inverness-shire, where Montrose, after routing one army of the Lowlanders, turned on another and cut it to pieces. For some months the Marquis continued to wage war with surpassing skill and valour. On August 16 his crowning victory was won at Kilsyth, in Stirlingshire, where 6000 Covenanters are said to have been slain. After this battle all Scotland lay at his feet.

The news of victory after victory won by the heroic Marquis did much to raise the drooping spirits of the King.

"From henceforth I place Montrose among my children, and mean to live with him as a friend, and not as a king," said Charles. The Marquis now

The Battle of Naseby

proposed to invade England, but he found great difficulty in keeping his Highlanders together, for in the intervals of fighting they insisted on returning home with their plunder. Charles therefore determined to march northward himself to the assistance of Montrose.

The King summoned Prince Rupert with his cavaliers to join him on the march to Scotland. On the way they stormed the town of Leicester, which surrendered to them. The Parliamentary leaders, hearing that Charles intended to proceed to Scotland, immediately dispatched Cromwell and Fairfax with their armies in pursuit. They overtook the Royalists near the village of Naseby, in Northamptonshire, and there was fought the great battle which decided the fortunes of King Charles.

The Royalist forces numbered 7500 while the Roundheads were 13,600 strong. The main body of the Royalist infantry was arranged in the centre and the cavalry on the wings; the King himself took up a position in the rear at the head of a reserve force composed of horse and foot. The army of the Parliament occupied a hill to the north of the village of Naseby, the cavalry being led by Cromwell on the right, and by his son-in-law, Henry Ireton, on the left.

At about ten o'clock on the morning of June 14, 1645, the battle began. Though the Royalists were the weaker in numbers they crossed the valley that separated the two armies, and charged up the hill. Rupert's cavalry drove the Parliamentary horse in wild confusion before them, and seized six pieces of

Charles the First

the rebels' best cannon. Unfortunately the Prince forgot, as usual, to draw rein in order to see how it fared with the Royalists in other parts of the field. While he still pursued the fugitives, Cromwell routed the Royalist horse on the left and immediately turned on the infantry. A panic seized on part of the King's reserve and they fled from the field. Charles bravely maintained his position, and called on those who remained to charge and retrieve the fortune of the day. As he rode forward with them the Earl of Carnwath caught his bridle, crying, "Sire, will you go to your death?"

The King halted and at that moment some one gave the order, "March to the right." The whole body turned and fled a quarter of a mile before it could be stopped. Meantime the foot soldiers were left to their fate, and regiment after regiment surrendered to Fairfax. Rupert returned at last only to find that all was lost, and he fled with the King to Leicester.

This defeat completely crushed the Royalist cause. Nearly 5000 prisoners, of whom 500 were officers, were left in the hands of the enemy; the whole of the King's artillery, forty barrels of gunpowder, arms for 8000 men, all the King's baggage, and his private letters from the Queen were seized by the Roundheads. These letters were afterward published by the Parliament, in order to prove that the Queen had encouraged her husband to continue the war.

After the battle of Naseby King Charles became a fugitive, and fled from place to place with the



The Flight of Charles at Naseby
May Gibbs

The Battle of Naseby

remnants of his army. Wales and the western counties were the only parts of the country still ruled by the King. Rupert hastened to Bristol, hoping against hope to snatch victory out of disaster. Fairfax, continuing his victorious march, also proceeded westward, and after forcing Bath to surrender besieged Bristol.

Before the arrival of the Parliamentary army Rupert had exerted himself to provision the city and repair the fortifications. He knew that as long as Bristol remained in the hands of the Royalists, they would be masters of the western counties. In a letter which he wrote to his uncle at this time he assured him that he had good hopes of being able to hold the city against the Roundheads for at least four months. But at the end of three weeks Rupert was forced to surrender the city to the Parliamentary troops, on condition that the garrison was allowed to depart safely.

Charles was filled with indignation and dismay on receiving news of this terrible disaster. He immediately wrote to Prince Rupert dismissing him from his service, and ordering him to depart for France.

On receiving this letter the Prince hastened to his uncle, who was then attempting to relieve Chester. When the King had heard Rupert's story he admitted that he was not to blame, and a reconciliation took place between them. The King refused, however, to retain Rupert in his service, and the Prince sailed for France.

Charles the First

Charles still hoped to join Montrose in Scotland. The Highlanders had followed their gallant leader more for the hope of plunder and out of enmity toward the Campbells than from any devotion to the King's cause. When Montrose refused to allow them to pillage Glasgow they went back to their glens, though they promised to return at need. Twenty-nine days after the victory at Kilsyth Montrose's camp was suddenly stormed at Philiphaugh, near Selkirk, by 5000 cavalry, and the whole of his remaining men were scattered or slain. This disaster put an end to Charles's hopes of retaining his northern kingdom.

The Queen had taken refuge in Exeter, and there her youngest daughter, the Princess Henrietta, was born. Lord Essex refused to allow her to proceed to Bath, as she had hoped to do on account of her health, and she declined to go to London, though the Parliamentary leaders offered to send her an escort to conduct her safely thither.

Leaving her baby, only fifteen days old, in the care of the governor of Exeter, Henrietta Maria made her way to Falmouth, in Cornwall, whence she sailed for France in the hope of obtaining help for her husband from the French King.

The baby-princess Henrietta was afterward placed in the charge of Lady Dalkeith, who proved a true friend to the Queen. In the following year Lady Dalkeith received orders from the Parliament to bring the child to London. Instead of obeying she disguised herself as a beggar woman, and dressing the

The Battle of Naseby

little princess in a tattered frock, set out with her on foot for Dover. She was accompanied by one faithful valet, who passed as her husband. On the way they had to travel through many places held by the Parliamentary troops, who took them for harmless tramps. Lady Dalkeith called the Princess 'Peter' in order to avert suspicion. They reached Dover, crossed the Channel in a common French packet, and arrived safely in Paris. The Queen was transported with joy on receiving her little daughter safe and sound.

Charles, Prince of Wales, who was now fifteen years of age, had been sent by his father to the west, while that part of England was still loyal to the King. He remained for some time at Bristol, but when Fairfax began his victorious march westward the King sent his son a letter directing him, in case he should find himself in danger, to join the Queen in France. After the surrender of Bristol by Rupert, however, the Royalists did not despair of still holding part of the west for the King if the Prince remained.

In March 1646 it became clear that the Prince's life was in danger from the Roundheads, and he was conveyed first to Jersey and later to the Scilly Islands. Thence he sailed for France, and joined his mother in Paris. James, Duke of York, the King's second son, remained in Oxford until the surrender of the city to Parliament in June 1646. The boy was then conveyed to London by the Roundheads, and in spite of his entreaties all his servants were dismissed, including a favourite dwarf whom he had begged that he might keep. He was allowed to join his younger brother

Charles the First

and sister, Henry and Elizabeth, at St James's Palace. The three children were kindly treated, but Elizabeth urged her brother James to escape. A plot was made by some friends of the King to effect this.

One day when the children were playing at hide-and-seek the young Duke hid himself so cleverly that he could not be found. While his playmates still sought him he succeeded in joining some of the King's friends who were waiting for him. They hastily dressed him in women's clothes, and conveyed him down the Thames in a boat. He then embarked in a ship for Holland, and was placed in the care of his sister Mary, the Princess of Orange.

CHAPTER XX: *The King's Flight to the Scots*

THE Scots had offered to do all in their power to restore Charles to his throne if he would support the Presbyterian form of worship, and abolish bishops. His loyal attachment to the Church of England made him hesitate to accept their help on these terms. After the departure of Prince Rupert, the King, with his few remaining followers, had returned to Oxford, which was still held by the Royalists. The armies of the Parliament were gradually surrounding the city, and Charles knew that sooner or later it must fall into the hands of the enemy.

Thrice did the King send messengers to London, offering to go to Westminster and discuss the conditions on which the Parliamentary leaders were prepared to make peace ; but defeated though he was, his enemies feared the influence of his royal presence more than they had done his armies, and they refused to receive him. During these weary months he often planned to disguise himself and appear unexpectedly in London, hoping, perhaps not without reason, that the loyal citizens who had loved him would once more rally round their King. He learned, however, that the Commons, suspecting his intentions, had given orders for his immediate imprisonment should he appear within the city.

About this time King Charles made a secret vow that, if God would restore him to his throne, he would give back to the Church all the Crown lands and other

Charles the First

property taken from abbeys and religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. At the King's request one of his chaplains named Gilbert Sheldon, who afterward became Archbishop of Canterbury, drew up a copy of this vow in writing, and preserved it hidden underground for thirteen years.

At last Charles decided to leave Oxford secretly without informing the garrison, though he knew not whither to turn for safety. He chose but two companions to accompany him, Doctor Hudson, one of his chaplains, and John Ashburnham, the paymaster of his army. It was decided that the King should disguise himself as their servant, and late on the evening of April 26, 1646 he went to the house of one of his friends, who performed for him the office of a barber, clipping his long hair and pointed beard quite short. They had planned to start before day-break, and the clock struck three as they rode over Magdalen Bridge. The governor of the city, who was in the secret, unlocked for them the gate which opened on the London road, and took leave of the King with a "Farewell, Henry," for to that name his Majesty was now to answer as Ashburnham's servant.

Hudson and Ashburnham were armed with pistols, but the King carried only a handbag. They took the London road, meeting on the way a party of Cromwell's horse, who inquired to whom they belonged. "To the honourable House of Commons," was the answer.

A Roundhead trooper on his way to London joined them on the road, and was their companion for some distance. He observed that Ashburnham spent money

Flight to the Scots

freely at the inns, and entering into conversation with the King, whom he took for a servant, asked if his master was one of the Lords.

"No," said Charles, "my master is one of the Lower House."

On reaching an old inn near Uxbridge they learned that his Majesty's escape from Oxford was already known, and the Parliament had sent drummers and trumpeters through the city to proclaim that whosoever gave him shelter should forfeit the whole of their estates. As it was also known that the King had left Oxford in the dress of a servant, he was forced to change his disguise to that of a clergyman. The King's companions now dissuaded him from continuing his journey to London, and after a long debate it was decided that he should take refuge with the Scottish army, which was then besieging Newark-on-Trent, for he preferred to trust himself to the Scots rather than to the Parliament. So Charles and his companions turned their horses and rode northward. On May 5 they reached the Scottish camp, and the King surrendered himself as a prisoner to the Earl of Leven, by whom he was honourably received. He attempted to obtain a promise that the Scots would support him against the English Parliament, but this Leven refused to give, and the King remained a prisoner in the Scottish camp.

The possession of the King by the Scots roused great jealousy in the House of Commons. The Independents, led by Cromwell, were specially indignant at the King being in the hands of Presbyterians. They

Charles the First

demanded that he should be delivered up to them immediately, but Leven replied that he was waiting orders from Edinburgh, and could not surrender the King until he had received them. At the request of Leven Charles gave orders for the surrender of Newark, which had been held for him by the Royalists.

The Scots at length decided to support Charles against the English Parliament, on condition that he would sign the Solemn League and Covenant and promise to establish the Presbyterian religion, not only in Scotland, but also in England and Ireland. But the King refused to regain his throne at the cost of what he considered would be a betrayal of his religious faith. The Scots then retreated to Newcastle, taking Charles with them, in order that he might be secure from capture by the Parliament.

King Charles remained at Newcastle for nine months, and during that time many proposals were made to him to which he refused to agree. Meantime the Commons had informed the Scots that, as the war was over, there was no further need for their services, and the Scottish army might be disbanded. They, however, refused to leave England until they had been paid for their services by the English Parliament.

The Marquis of Argyle, who had now the chief authority in Scotland, was determined that Charles should not enter his northern kingdom. In January 1647 the Scottish Parliament met in Edinburgh, and debated what should be done with his Majesty. The motion that he should not be allowed to come

Flight to the Scots

to Scotland was carried by only two votes. The loyal chief of the Hamilton clan was roused to fury by this decision.

"As I may hope for the mercy of God on the Day of Judgment," he said, "I would rather have my head struck off at the Market Cross of Edinburgh, than give my consent to this vote."

It was at length decided that the Scottish army should accept £400,000 in payment for their services, half this sum to be paid when they left the kingdom and half at a later time. On payment of the first half Charles was to be surrendered to the English Parliament. The friends of Charles afterward accused the Scots of having sold their master to the Parliament.

The King was playing at chess when he received a letter informing him that the Scots had decided to deliver him up to the English Parliament. So great was his self-control that those who were with him saw no change in the expression of his face as he read the letter, and afterward he calmly continued the game, until he won.

At this time some of the King's friends devised a plan for his escape to France, and Charles had good hopes that this could be effected. However, he was so closely guarded that the plan had to be abandoned.

In February 1647 the Scottish army left Newcastle, and before recrossing the border delivered Charles to messengers sent by the English Parliament. He was conducted to Holmby House, in Northamptonshire, a beautiful mansion which had been presented to him by his mother when he was Duke of York.

Charles the First

This house had been fitted up for his reception in a very handsome manner, and some of his friends had been permitted to assemble there to receive him. Although he was a prisoner his journey to Northamptonshire was like a royal progress. The gentry came in crowds to escort him, and the poor people thronged to see him pass; church bells were rung and cannons fired. At Holmby the King enjoyed much liberty, and frequently visited the neighbouring village of Althrope, where there was a bowling-green. There he enjoyed recreation with his friends. Much of his time was spent in writing, in study, and in playing his favourite game of chess.

He had asked that his own chaplains might be sent to him, but this was refused, and two Presbyterian ministers were appointed to attend him. The King would not allow them to say grace at table, but performed this duty himself.

One Sunday, when Charles attended service in the chapel of Holmby House, a Scottish Presbyterian minister preached a sermon, in which he referred to the King's tyranny. At the close he said, " We will now sing the 52nd Psalm, beginning :

" Why dost thou, tyrant, boast thyself
Of mischief and of ill ? "

As the congregation were about to commence singing the King rose and said, " We will rather sing the 56th Psalm, beginning :

" Have mercy on me, Lord, I pray,
For man would me devour. "

Flight to the Scots

The congregation, moved by a sudden impulse of generosity, immediately sang the Psalm which the King had chosen.

Charles remained at Holmby House for four months, and during that time a quarrel arose between the Parliament and the army. The Parliament wished to disband the army without giving the soldiers their full pay; but the victorious soldiers, led by Cromwell, declared that the religious question for which they fought was not yet settled, and they refused to disband. Cromwell now proposed to defeat the schemes of the Parliament by seizing the King.

In June 500 mounted troops, under the command of Cornet Joyce, one of Cromwell's trusted allies, was sent to seize the King. They arrived at Holmby House at midnight; Joyce drew up his horsemen round the mansion and demanded entrance. The guards asked him his name and business. He replied that he was Cornet Joyce, and that his business was to speak with the King.

Charles was in bed, but according to some accounts Joyce was admitted to his bed-chamber and had an interview with him. The King promised to be ready to accompany the Cornet and his troops at six on the following morning.

Next morning Charles set out with the troops at the appointed hour. Joyce had persuaded the King that the army was friendly to him, and as he rode along with the soldiers he was the merriest of the company. They travelled first to Newmarket and afterward to Cambridge, stopping at night at the houses of the

Charles the First

nobility, where the King was honourably entertained. At Cambridge he was received by the leading officers of the army with every mark of respect ; after remaining there for a few days he was escorted to his own palace at Hampton Court.

CHAPTER XXI: *The King's Imprisonment*

KING CHARLES remained at Hampton Court for three months. Although the prisoner of the army, he was at first allowed full liberty to converse and ride with his friends. Two of his children who were still in England, the Princess Elizabeth and Prince Henry, were permitted to visit him. Elizabeth was now twelve years of age and her brother Henry was nine; they had been placed by order of the Parliament in the charge of the Earl of Northumberland, who treated them very kindly.

Elizabeth was the most gifted of all the King's children, and, during the years that she was separated from her parents, study was her chief consolation. It is said that at eight years of age she was able to read and write Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, and Italian. She was passionately attached to her father, and grief for his misfortunes had already affected her health.

While the King was at Hampton Court Cromwell's soldiers marched on London and seized the city; henceforth the power of the Parliament passed to the army. Cromwell now offered to restore Charles to the throne on certain conditions: The Parliament was to be dissolved within a year, and in future no Parliament was to sit more than two years, or less than 120 days; the country was to be divided into equal electoral districts; the control of the militia, the navy, and the appointment of all

Charles the First

the great officers of State was to be in the hands of the Parliament for ten years; no man was to be forced to sign the Solemn League and Covenant, or punished for not using the Prayer Book; and bishops were to have no power to impose penalties for refusal to conform to Church ceremonies. This would have been, on the whole, a wise and just settlement, and no more favourable conditions were ever offered to Charles. Unfortunately he refused to accept them, for he had vain hopes of obtaining support for his own terms by intriguing with the Parliament against the army. He also entered into correspondence with the Scots, who promised to restore him to the throne. While he thus treated with all parties he refused to come to an agreement with any of them.

The King was informed that some of the boldest men in the army were plotting to murder him. He then resolved to make his escape from Hampton Court, in the hope that when once at large he would find supporters. On the evening of November 11, 1647, Charles retired to his bed-chamber at an early hour, requesting that he might not be disturbed as he wished to write letters. At about ten o'clock some of his attendants went to his room, and found it empty. On the table were letters which he had left directed to the Parliament and to the officers of the army who had guarded him at Hampton Court.

Three faithful friends had accompanied the King in his flight—John Ashburnham, Sir John Berkeley, formerly governor of Exeter, and Colonel Legge. They had slipped out with Charles through a vaulted

The King's Imprisonment

passage, which communicated with the garden, and reached a door in the wall opening on the river Thames. A boat was in readiness to convey them across the river, and horses were waiting for them on the other side. Through the dark and stormy night they rode southward, and at daybreak reached Titchfield, in Hampshire, the residence of the Dowager-Countess of Southampton. The Countess gladly received the King, but as there was no means of defending her house it was agreed that some safer retreat must be found for him without delay. The house of the Countess was on the south coast, near the Isle of Wight, on which was the famous Castle of Carisbrooke, the ruins of which are still to be seen. This Castle was in charge of Colonel Hammond, the governor of the island. Charles sent Ashburnham and Berkeley to Hammond to ask if he would either give him shelter or allow him to depart in safety to France. The governor refused to act contrary to the orders of the Parliament, but Ashburnham, who seems to have trusted to his loyalty, conducted him to Titchfield.

When the King heard that Hammond had arrived with a guard he reproached Ashburnham for having revealed his hiding-place without being certain of the governor's loyalty.

"Alas, Jack, you have ruined me!" he said.

Ashburnham, in great distress, offered to go down and slay Hammond, but the King refused to hear of such a way out of the difficulty. He received Hammond courteously, and agreed to accompany him to Carisbrooke Castle.

Charles the First

On landing in the Isle of Wight Charles spent the first night at a small inn at Cowes ; on the following day he was escorted by Hammond and his soldiers to Carisbrooke. As they passed through the village of Newport a loyal gentlewoman, named Frances Prattle, presented the King with a beautiful pink rose, which had braved the November air in her sheltered garden. " May God send happiness to your Majesty ! " she said earnestly. The King received her gift with thanks.

At Carisbrooke Castle the King again became a prisoner. Hammond lost no time in informing the officers of the army of the King's arrival, and was rewarded for his prompt action with a gift of £1000 and a yearly pension of £500 for himself and his heirs.

During the first four weeks of his imprisonment Charles was allowed considerable liberty. He was permitted to have his own chaplains and to receive visits from the gentry of the island ; on more than one occasion he enjoyed the chase in the green glades of Parkhurst Forest.

An unfortunate incident resulted in putting an end to his freedom. One of the King's servants, named Burley, indignant at being dismissed by Hammond, vowed to take his revenge on the governor. One day he went through the village of Carisbrooke beating a drum and calling on the people to rise and rescue their sovereign from his captivity. Hammond, hearing that a number of the villagers had assembled, sent out a small body of men to arrest Burley. He was dragged to the Castle and was immediately hanged

The King's Imprisonment

and quartered in sight of the terrified villagers. This served to quench their enthusiasm, and Charles was afterward kept in closer confinement.

Though Hammond was determined not to allow the King to escape he treated him with much kindness. To afford recreation for the royal prisoner he caused a field outside the Castle walls to be converted into a bowling-green.

Charles remained at Carisbrooke Castle for more than a year. During that time he continued to correspond secretly with his friends, and several attempts were made to effect his escape. Sir Henry Firebrace, known to be a faithful friend to the King, was living in London when he received a letter from His Majesty, requesting him to hasten to the Isle of Wight. He immediately applied to the Commons for permission to attend the King as one of the pages of his bed-chamber. The Commons, not suspecting his design, granted his request.

Soon after his arrival at Carisbrooke Castle Firebrace was able to establish regular communication between the King and his friends by means of two trusted and unsuspected men who were constantly coming and going to the Castle. He was careful to speak seldom with the King in private lest he should excite the suspicion of the gaolers, but he corresponded with him by means of notes, which he left in a secret place in the King's bedroom.

Firebrace confided his plans for the King's escape to two of his friends. It was agreed that on a certain night Firebrace would throw a small stone at the

Charles the First

window of the King's chamber as a signal that all was in readiness. Charles was then to slip through the iron bars of his window, which were fairly wide apart, and to let himself down to the ground by a cord. Under cover of the darkness Firebrace and Charles were to climb the walls, outside which two gentlemen were to be waiting with three horses. As soon as Charles had mounted they were to gallop post-haste with him to the seashore, where a boat was to be in readiness to convey him to France.

Firebrace carried out these plans with the greatest care. On the appointed night the signal was given, and the King who had been waiting for it, immediately attempted to get out by the window. Unhappily, he had mistaken the width of the opening, and his body stuck fast between the iron bars. It was only after a severe struggle that he succeeded in extricating himself and returning to his room. He then placed a candle in his window, as he had agreed to do if his attempt to escape failed. Had it not been for his unfortunate mistake regarding the width of the bars, it is almost certain that King Charles would have escaped to France that night.

The King's friends did not abandon hope of effecting his escape. In the meantime one of the soldiers in the garrison, named Rolf, formed a plot to entice the King out of the Castle on the pretence of helping him to escape in order to murder him. Rolf supposed that this would please the officers of the army, and that he and his accomplices would be handsomely rewarded. He took into his confidence one of the

The King's Imprisonment

King's attendants, named Osborn, whom he believed to be a Roundhead. Osborn listened eagerly to the details of Rolf's plan, and promised to help him. But Rolf had been mistaken in his choice of a confidant, for Osborn was one of the King's most loyal servants. He immediately went to the King and revealed the whole plot to him. They agreed that Osborn should continue to pretend to assist Rolf until the King was got out of the Castle; his friends would then be waiting to prevent his assassination.

A file was procured and given to the King in order that he might cut out one of the bars which guarded his window. It was agreed that on the appointed night Osborn should be waiting with a few friends to receive the King as he descended from the window and to convey him away. In the meantime Rolf and Osborn had each taken a certain number of men into their confidence. Those who joined Rolf supposed that the plan was to assassinate the King, while those who joined Osborn were prepared to assist His Majesty to escape.

Some words dropped by one of Osborn's men alarmed Rolf and caused him to suspect some treachery. He accordingly took the precaution to provide a number of armed men who were to wait under the King's window and murder him before he could escape to his friends. When the signal was given, the King, before descending, looked below, and seeing many armed men guessed that Rolf had discovered Osborn's design. He therefore decided not to descend, and quietly returned to bed. Next morning one of the

Charles the First

bars of the King's window was found cut in two, and he was afterward guarded so closely that all hope of escape had to be abandoned.

Some months later messengers from the Parliament visited the King, and were struck by the change in his appearance. Grief and despair at his long confinement had seriously affected his health and spirits ; his dress was soiled and neglected, his beard unshorn, and his hair grey ; though only forty-eight years of age he looked like a man of seventy. Even his stern enemies were deeply affected by this evidence of his sufferings.

CHAPTER XXII: *The Second Civil War*

WHILE the generals of the army were attempting to come to terms with the King, he was secretly summoning the English Presbyterians and the Scottish Royalists to join in his defence. Although he still pretended to be willing to discuss terms with the army, he made a secret treaty with the Scots by which he promised to establish Presbyterianism in England for three years, on condition that they would restore to him his kingly power. His double-dealing caused the officers of the army to declare that they would put no further trust in him.

Many Englishmen were by this time weary of the tyranny of the army, and would have been glad to see the King restored to his throne. Encouraged by the news of his treaty with the Scots, the Royalists resolved once more to take up arms in his cause, so a second civil war began. In the summer of 1648 the Royalists rose in arms in Wales and in the eastern counties of England, while a Scottish army, led by the Duke of Hamilton, crossed the Scottish border to fight for their King. A fourth part of the English fleet revolted and sailed over to the Dutch coast, their crews having decided to place themselves under the command of the Prince of Wales.

Cromwell, who had believed that the Royalists were entirely crushed, blamed the King for this second civil war. Before setting out with his followers to

Charles the First

quell the rebels, he made a solemn vow that if "the Lord brought him back again in peace, he would call Charles Stuart, that man of blood, to answer for the blood he had shed." While Cromwell hastened to Wales Fairfax marched with his troops to Kent, where he soon crushed the Royalists. After a sharp fight at Maidstone many of the fugitives fled across the Thames and took refuge in Colchester, in Essex, where they determined to stand a siege. Fairfax marched swiftly upon the town and encamped around it with his army, being prepared to wait until lack of provisions forced the Royalists to surrender. The Earl of Holland had been chosen by the Queen and the Prince of Wales to lead the English insurrection, but soon after it began he was surprised and taken prisoner by the Roundheads in Huntingdonshire.

In South Wales Cromwell succeeded, after much difficulty, in putting down the rising. The siege of Pembroke Castle, which was held for the King, delayed him for six weeks ; at the end of that time the garrison surrendered, and Cromwell, without loss of time, hurried northward to meet the Scots.

Hamilton had been joined by many English cavaliers, and now commanded a force 24,000 strong. He had been delayed by bad weather, and was moving slowly southward in the hope of raising the men of Lancashire and North Wales for the King. Cromwell, with 9000 men, pushed his way across a pass in the Pennine Range and suddenly attacked the Scots near Preston, in Lancashire. The fighting continued for three days,

The Second Civil War

amid torrents of rain. Cromwell pursued the Scots as they splashed along the soaking roads, and cut their army in two. The cavalry were driven northward, the survivors returning to Scotland, while the infantry were surrounded and their retreat completely cut off. Ten thousand prisoners with all their arms and gunpowder fell into Cromwell's hands. This terrible defeat crushed the hopes of the Royalists. Many of the prisoners were sent by Cromwell to exile in the West Indies, and two cavalry officers were shot.

Colchester continued to hold out for the King until the bodies of all the horses and dogs within the walls had been devoured, but the brave defenders were at last forced to surrender to Fairfax.

Meantime the Prince of Wales, who was now eighteen years of age, had sailed from Holland in command of nineteen English ships. They anchored off Yarmouth Downs, and the news of their arrival raised the drooping spirits of the London Royalists. As the Prince had not sufficient money to pay his crews he seized several merchant vessels in their passage through the Downs. He then sent a message to the citizens of London, offering to restore the captive ships on payment of £20,000 for the support of his enterprise. On reading this letter the London merchants, who were furious at the stoppage of their trade, appealed to the Parliament, demanding that the King should be immediately released and peace declared. The Commons only scoffed at these demands, and issued a declaration that all who aided the Prince were to be held guilty of high treason.

Charles the First

There is little doubt that if the Prince had appeared with his fleet before the Isle of Wight the King would have been set at liberty. Charles sent a private message to his son suggesting that the fleet should attack the island ; but the crews were determined first to fight that part of the fleet which still adhered to the Parliament. The Roundhead vessels succeeded, however, in eluding the Royalists for many days, until the Prince was so short of provisions that he was forced to sail back to Holland without attempting to rescue his father. Thus the second civil war ended in the triumph of the Roundhead army.

Cromwell's successes had alarmed the Presbyterian leaders, who feared that he would soon make himself master of the whole kingdom. In the hope of checking his power they sent fifteen commissioners to the Isle of Wight to discuss terms with the King. Charles went from Carisbrooke Castle to the neighbouring town of Newport to confer with them. During their stay he was allowed complete freedom, on condition of giving his word that he would not attempt to escape.

Long debates took place, the King upholding his views with much spirit and ability, but no satisfactory terms were arranged, and the conference proved a failure. In the end of November the commissioners departed, taking with them Hammond, who had been summoned to Windsor by the Parliament.

On the day after their departure a man in disguise informed one of the King's attendants that a military force was on its way to the Isle of Wight to seize his

The Second Civil War

master. Charles, on hearing this, consulted with the Duke of Richmond and two other Royalists who were with him. They joined in advising him to save his life by an immediate escape. The night was dark and stormy; they were acquainted with the watchword, by means of which they might pass the sentinels, and a boat could easily be procured. But the King declared that he had given his word to remain in the island for twenty days after the departure of the commissioners, and that he would not break it. His friends, who were now much agitated and disturbed on his account, entreated him in vain. They reminded him that his word had been given not to the army but to the Parliament, but he refused to admit the distinction.

The King retired to rest about midnight. Shortly afterward an officer from the army arrived with a troop of horsemen and a company of foot soldiers. At five in the morning Charles was awakened by a message that he must prepare to depart immediately.

"Whither am I to be taken?" asked the King sadly.

"To Hurst Castle," was the reply.

"No worse place could have been chosen," he said.

Hurst Castle was a fortress built on a solitary rock, which was connected with the Hampshire coast by a narrow neck of sand and gravel two miles long. It consisted of a gloomy tower surrounded by thick walls and ramparts. The King, accompanied by his escort and a few of his faithful servants, arrived at Hurst Castle about noon on December 1. The captain of the fortress was well suited to his surroundings;

Charles the First

his look was stern, his hair and beard black and bushy, and by his side hung a large sword with a basket-work hilt. He received the royal captive with scanty ceremony, and appeared much elated by the honour of being chosen as the King's gaoler. So insolent and blustering was his manner to Charles that on the day after their arrival some of the royal attendants made a complaint to a superior officer. This led to the captain being reproved for his insolence, and his manner afterward became milder.

The King suffered in health during his confinement in Hurst Castle, for he was not allowed to take his usual exercise. His apartments were dark and ill-furnished, and the dampness of the walls increased the intense cold. At the end of three weeks the army leaders decided to remove him to Windsor.

One night the King was suddenly roused from sleep by the fall of the drawbridge and the tramping of horses. Many dreadful ideas rushed through his mind as he lay awake listening to strange sounds and voices without. At an early hour in the morning he sent his servant, Thomas Herbert, to inquire what had happened. Herbert returned with the information that a Colonel Harrison had arrived. At the mention of this name the King appeared much disturbed, and withdrew to his private chamber where he remained for some time engaged in prayer.

While the King was at Newport he had received a private letter from one of his friends informing him that a certain Colonel Harrison had sworn to murder him. The alarm, however, was unfounded, for

The Second Civil War

Harrison had not come to murder him, but to make arrangements for his removal to Windsor Castle. The Colonel departed as he had come during the following night, and without seeing the King.

Two days later Charles, with a large armed escort, was removed to Windsor Castle, where many of his happiest days had been spent. He was permitted to occupy his own bed-chamber, and during his stay in the Castle was waited on with all the royal ceremony to which he had been accustomed as king.

CHAPTER XXIII: *The King's Trial*

THE bolder spirits in the army had now resolved to bring the King to trial before the Parliament, but many of the members were still loyal to him and would undoubtedly have voted for his restoration to power. On the morning of December 6, 1648, an officer named Colonel Pride went with a body of soldiers to the House, and, standing in the lobby, turned back on their arrival all the members who were still faithful to the King. Those who resisted were arrested and imprisoned.

Many members had been warned of what was to happen and withdrew of their own accord, some taking the opportunity to retire into the country ; but about fifty of those most distinguished for their talents, position and influence were taken into custody. On the same day Cromwell arrived in London, and expressed his entire approval of what had been done. This act of violence was known as Pride's Purge. The remaining members, afterward known as the 'Rump Parliament,' consisted of a mere group of middle-class men, who did not represent the nation, and who depended for power and even for safety upon the army. They agreed to act as the King's judges, and named many persons of importance, civil or military, to assist them. Few responded to their call, and the Lords refused to take any share in the proceedings. Lord Fairfax, the commander-in-chief of the army, was present at the first meeting of the 'Rump,'

The King's Trial

but declined to attend any others, or to sign the acts passed. His wife, who was a keen loyalist, had dissuaded him from taking any part in the King's trial.

Early in January 1649 the King was brought from Windsor to London and lodged in St James's Palace. Up to this time, although a prisoner, he had been served with the usual state, but orders were now sent to remove his attendants and to have his food served without ceremonial by the common soldiers. The absence of the ceremonies to which he had always been accustomed made a deep impression on the unfortunate monarch. Rather than submit to humiliation, he diminished the number of his dishes and took his scanty meals in private.

The news that his enemies were about to bring him to trial was brought to him by his faithful servant, Thomas Herbert, who afterward wrote an account of the last two years of his master's life. Charles was still hopeful that the Royalists would again rise in his cause, or that help would come to him from Ireland or from France. But the Queen, in spite of heroic efforts, could obtain neither troops nor money to help her husband, for her brother, the King of France, was dead, and his successor, a boy of ten, had no power to assist her.

Orders were given that the King's trial should begin on January 20 in Westminster Hall. As the day approached, and all hope of rescue left the King, he became calm and cheerful, and prepared to face his judges with fearless dignity. During the trial,

Charles the First

which lasted seven days, he was lodged in Sir Thomas Cotton's house close to Westminster Hall, lest frequent passages to and from St James's should increase the pity already felt for him by the people of London.

On the appointed day the court assembled. John Bradshaw, a respectable lawyer, had been elected president, and a raised chair, covered with crimson velvet, was placed for him at the upper end of the Hall; the others ranged themselves on either side on benches. In front of the president's chair sat two clerks at a table on which were a sword and a mace, and directly opposite was a chair intended for the King. The public were admitted by a door at the lower end of the Hall.

Out of 135 persons who had been cited by the Commons to be present only 68 answered to their names. When Fairfax's name was called a woman's voice answered from the gallery: "He has more wit than to be here."

Charles was received at the door of the Hall by a serjeant-at-arms, and conducted to the bar. His step was firm, his countenance serene and unmoved; never had he shown more kingly dignity than when brought before this unlawful tribunal. He did not remove his hat, but first seated himself, then rose and surveyed the court; a contemptuous smile played on his lips as he looked at the shopkeepers, hucksters, and rough soldiers who had assembled to act as his judges. His look abashed and irritated them; forgetting his kingly blood and judging him out of the

The King's Trial

baseness of their own craven souls, they had counted on his showing fear.

A clerk read the charge, which set forth that Charles Stuart, King of England, had attempted to usurp unlawful power, and had treacherously made war on the Parliament, thereby incurring the death of many thousands of his subjects ; on these grounds he was impeached as a tyrant, murderer, and public enemy of the Commonwealth of England.

Bradshaw then declared that the King was called on to answer the charge by the Commons assembled in Parliament, and by the good people of England. Again a woman's voice was raised in the gallery :

" It is a lie ! Not half, not a quarter of the people of England ! Oliver Cromwell is a traitor ! "

Colonel Axtell, whose duty it was to keep order, losing his temper, ordered his soldiers to fire into the gallery. But while the men hesitated, for they had recognized the voice of Lady Fairfax, the wife of their commander-in-chief, the brave woman was removed from the Hall.

When the disturbance was at an end the King asked by what authority he had been brought to the bar. " Where are the peers who alone by the law of England can judge a peer ? " he asked. Bradshaw replied that the authority was that of the people of England, by whom he had been elected King.

" I am sovereign of this realm by inheritance and not by election," said Charles, " and for me to answer save to lawful authority would be to betray my trust

Charles the First

and the liberties of my people." As he persisted in his refusal to plead before such a court he was sent back to Cotton House.

On the three following days Charles still refused to plead, and Bradshaw ordered the contempt shown by the prisoner toward the court to be recorded.

Many still hesitated to condemn the King to death, but for two days Cromwell and other determined men argued with the waverers until they yielded. On January 27, when the King was brought to the bar, he asked that sentence might not be given until he had been heard before a committee of the Lords and the Commons, as he had an important proposal to make.

The president replied that such a conference would imply that the Lords had equal authority with the Commons, and this the court refused to admit. He therefore refused to grant the King's request. It was afterward declared that the King had intended to propose that he should resign the crown to his son, the Prince of Wales.

Charles then made an attempt to address the assembly, but was told that the time for his defence was past, that he had spurned the numerous opportunities offered him by the indulgence of the court, and that nothing remained for his judges but to pass sentence. The judgment was then read : " That this court, being satisfied that Charles Stuart the prisoner was guilty of the crimes of which he had been charged, adjudged him a tyrant, traitor, murderer, and public enemy of the good people of England, and condemned

The King's Trial

him to be put to death by severing his head from his body."

The King heard his sentence unmoved, for he had long ceased to expect justice; after it was pronounced he attempted to speak, but was immediately silenced by Bradshaw, who ordered him to be removed.

"I am not suffered to speak! Expect what justice other people will have!" said the King.

The guard pressed round him and hurried him outside the Hall, where a sedan chair was waiting to convey him to St James's Palace. Until he was seated in his chair his bearers remained uncovered, regardless of the angry shouts of Colonel Axtell. As he descended the stairs some of the soldiers blew the smoke of their pipes in his face, and one person, more insolent than the rest, spat on him. Charles, with his usual composure, took no notice of this affront.

As the procession set out cries of "Justice! Justice! Execution!" were heard from the soldiers, who lined the streets. One of them venturing to say, "God bless you, sir," received a stroke on the head from the cane of the officer in charge. "Truly, I think the punishment exceeded the offence," observed the King.

Above the shouts might be heard now and then the voices of the people: "God save your Majesty!" "God deliver your Majesty from the hands of your enemies!" The angry threats of the soldiers silenced them.

Charles the First

“ I am well assured that the soldiers bear me no malice,” said Charles ; “ for a piece of money they would shout against their commanders.”

Even among those members who had joined in passing sentence on the King many hesitated long before they would sign his death-warrant. Finally it was signed by fifty-eight of the judges.

CHAPTER XXIV: *The Execution of King Charles*

THE execution of the King was fixed to take place on Tuesday, January 30, in the open street, before the banqueting house of Whitehall. With the assistance of William Juxon, Bishop of London, who had been in attendance on him during the trial, Charles prepared himself for the last scene. He excused himself from seeing many friends who called at St James's Palace, for he wished to keep his mind clear.

"I hope they will not take it ill that none have access to me here but my children," he said. "The best service my friends can do for me is to pray for me."

On the Saturday evening the King took from his finger a ring in which was an emerald set between two diamonds ; this he gave to his servant Herbert, telling him to take it to a certain house in Channel Row at the back of King Street, Westminster, and there deliver it to the lady of the house without saying a word. Herbert waited until after dark, and then went to the house the King had named. He found that it belonged to Lady Wheeler, who had formerly been the royal laundress ; she bade him wait in the parlour until she returned. Presently she came back, and, placing in his hands a small casket closed with three seals, desired him to deliver it to him from whom he had received the ring.

Next day Charles opened the casket, which contained some diamonds and a few jewels of little value.

Charles the First

"This," said he sadly, "is all the wealth left me to bequeath to my children."

On the Monday the Princess Elizabeth and Henry, Duke of Gloucester, were allowed to bid farewell to their father. Elizabeth was deeply distressed on seeing his altered appearance, his whitened hair, and careless dress. She wept bitterly, but the King took her on his knee and bade her be calm, saying he had much to tell her that he could confide to no one else. The Princess afterward wrote an account of this last meeting with her father :

"He told me he was glad I was come, and although he had not time to say much, yet somewhat he had to say to me which he could not to another, or leave in writing, for the cruelty of his enemies was such that he would not be permitted to write to me. He wished me not to grieve for him, for he was to die a glorious death for the laws and liberties of the land ; he bid me read certain books which would guard me against Popery ; he said he had forgiven all his enemies and prayed God to forgive them also, and commanded us to do the same. He bid me tell my mother that his thoughts had never strayed from her, and that his love for her would be the same to the last ; he bid me send his blessing to the rest of my brothers and sisters and his good remembrance to his friends."

"Sweetheart," he said, "you will not forget this ?" "No," she replied, "I shall never forget it while I live." Bursting into tears afresh she promised to write down all he had said.

Then lifting little Henry on his knee the King said

The Execution of King Charles

sadly: "Sweetheart, they will cut off thy father's head." As the boy gazed in frightened silence the King continued: "Mark well, Henry, what I say; they will cut off my head and perhaps make you a king, but you must not be a king as long as your brothers Charles and James are alive. I charge you be not made a king by them."

"I will be torn in pieces first," said the boy.

Charles then gave them the few jewels from the casket brought by Herbert, and kissing them tenderly bade them kneel while he gave them his blessing. As the door of the apartment was closing on them Charles turned from the window near which he was standing and called them back. Once more he folded them both in his arms and kissed them, then releasing them he let them depart.

Two Dutch ambassadors had arrived post-haste from Holland begging for immediate audience with the Parliament in order to discuss the terms on which the King might be released. From the Prince of Wales they brought a letter with which was enclosed a blank sheet of paper, signed and sealed by himself. It was the price he offered to the generals of the army for the life of his father.

"Let them fill it up as they please; let them make *any* terms, *any* terms," wrote the Prince; "whatever they may ask is already granted; my seal and signature are affixed."

Though history has little that is good to record of the Prince in the years that followed, it has at least this noble, whole-hearted offer.

Charles the First

Charles had the consolation of knowing that his son had not forgotten him in his distress. But the stern masters of England were not to be shaken in their purpose.

On the last night of his life the King slept peacefully for four hours. His servant, Herbert, who had lain on a pallet by his master's bedside, assisted him to dress on the fatal morning. It was bitterly cold, and the King put on two shirts, lest if he trembled with cold men might think he was afraid. He was calm and fearless, and nothing in his life had been so truly kingly as was his manner of leaving it.

Bishop Juxon arrived at an early hour to read morning prayers with the King. He also read part of the 27th chapter of St Matthew's Gospel, which tells of the sufferings of our Saviour. When the Bishop had ended Charles thanked him for his choice ; he was surprised and pleased to learn that the chapter was not the Bishop's choice, but was the Church's lesson for the day.

At ten o'clock one of the officers knocked at the King's door and announced that it was time to proceed to Whitehall. Charles, wearing a long black cloak and grey stockings, set out on foot across St James's Park. He walked between a double line of soldiers, with drums beating ; on his right was Bishop Juxon, and on his left Colonel Tomlinson, the captain of the guard, both bare-headed.

The King walked with a stately and assured step, conversing calmly with the captain, but the noise of the soldiers' drums, which beat continually, made



Cromwell contemplating the dead King

Paul DeJaroche

Photo W. A. Mansell & Co.

The Execution of King Charles

conversation difficult. The guards walked at a slow pace, and the King requested them to proceed faster.

As he passed a tree not far from one of the gates he looked at it with interest and said: "That tree was planted by my brother Henry." Bright memories came to him of far-off summer days when, a happy boy, he had played with his brother in these gardens.

On arriving at Whitehall the King was conducted to the apartment that had been his bed-chamber. There he had to wait some time. Dinner had been prepared for him, and at the Bishop's entreaty he was persuaded to eat a morsel of bread and to drink a glass of wine. It was not until two o'clock that an officer knocked at the door and informed him that all was ready.

The King passed with a cheerful countenance through the avenue of guards to the scaffold, which had been erected in front of the banqueting house—its height being level with the top of the lower windows; it was covered with black cloth. By the block stood two masked executioners. Around were ranged dense masses of soldiers, horse and foot, and beyond them was a mighty multitude of people, who had come to see their King die.

Curious eyes watched him as he stepped on the scaffold, yet the last triumph was not reserved for his enemies but for the King himself. They could only marvel at his majestic bearing and fearless mien.

Finding that his voice could not reach the people Charles addressed a few words to those who stood round him. He said that he was innocent of the guilt

Charles the First

of the civil war, but owned that for an unjust sentence which he had allowed to take effect on the Earl of Strafford he was now punished by an unjust sentence upon himself.

"For the people," he said, "truly I desire their liberty as much as anybody whosoever, but I must tell you that their liberty consists in having government and laws by which their life and their goods may be most their own. It is not by having share in government, for a subject and a sovereign are two different things; but until the people are put in that liberty they will never have peace."

Charles told the executioner that he would say a short prayer, "and when I thrust out my hands—" Turning to the bishop he said: "I have a good cause and a gracious God on my side."

"There is but one stage more," replied Juxon, "a stage turbulent and troublesome, but it will carry you from earth to heaven."

"I go," said the King, "from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown, where no disturbance can be—no disturbance in the world."

The King knelt down and laid his head on the block. After praying silently for a few minutes he thrust out his hands. At one blow the executioner severed his head from his body.

The bleeding head was immediately lifted up by the other headsman and shown to the people. "Behold," he said, "the head of a traitor!" But the shouts of the soldiers were drowned in groans of sorrow and amazement from the assembled crowds.

The Execution of King Charles

The Parliament refused to allow the body of Charles to be buried in Westminster Abbey; but some days after the execution Juxon, the Duke of Richmond, and a few other nobles were permitted to place it in a plain black coffin and convey it to Windsor.

At about three o'clock on a bleak February day the coffin was taken from Windsor Castle for burial in a vault in St George's Chapel. Juxon desired to read the burial service, but an order had arrived from the Parliament forbidding him to do so.

So, with no ceremony but the sighs and tears of a few faithful friends, the body of Charles was committed to the earth. The coffin was covered with a black velvet pall. As it was borne out of the Castle a heavy shower of snow was falling, and by the time the bearers reached the Chapel the black velvet pall was all white. Thus was the White King borne to his grave.



923.142/MAC



15938

